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# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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**BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION**  
INCLUDING DUMBO

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Associated Press Photo, Feb. 12/07

Clem Labine (left), a member of the 1955 World Series-winning Brooklyn Dodgers, is gravely ill, according to old pal and legend Cal Erskine, who spoke with The Brooklyn Paper this week. Labine is seen here with former Met Roger Craig.

## OISK: PRAY FOR CLEM

### Dodger great Labine near death in Florida

By Ed Shakespeare  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Clem Labine, Brooklyn Dodger pitcher during the celebrated Boys of Summer era, is gravely ill.

His former teammate, Cal Erskine, told The Brooklyn Paper that Labine has been at Indian River Medical Center in Vero Beach, Florida since Feb. 10, shortly after completing a stint as an instructor at an adult "fantasy" camp at the Dodgers' training camp in Vero Beach.

"He's gravely ill," Erskine said by telephone on Tuesday. "The Brooklyn fans should know about Clem's condition. They may want to pray for him."

The hospital confirmed that Labine, 79, is there for treatment. They listed him in critical condition.

Labine was a major leaguer for 13 seasons, eight with Brooklyn and three more with Los Angeles. Although his numbers wouldn't put him in the Hall of Fame, he lives on in the hearts of all Brooklyn baseball fans as a hero of *Dum Bums*' 1955

### EXCLUSIVE

World Series-winning team.

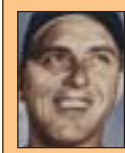
In the Brooks' celebrated — and only — Series win over the hated New York Yankees, Labine pitched in four games of the Series, with a win and a save.

The next year — Brooklyn's last ap-

pearance in the World Series — Labine threw a complete-game shutout against the Yankees, though the Bronx Bombers went on to win that Fall Classic.

One year later, the Dodgers were gone — and the 6-foot Labine went with them to Los Angeles.

In his big league career, Labine was 77-56 with a 3.63 ERA. His best season was that 1955 campaign, when he went 13-15.



## Fame still eludes our Gil: See P. 5



## City: We'll ease Yards traffic in Slope with two new one-way thoroughfares

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

The city is pushing a "radical" proposal to convert traffic-choked Seventh and Sixth avenues in Park Slope into one-way thoroughfares and removing a lane of traffic from each direction of highway-like Fourth Avenue.

"Off the record? Holy f---!" said a usually sober elected official when The Brooklyn Paper called with the bombshell news.

"That is huge!"

The Department of Transportation did not publicly announce the proposal — which would change Seventh Avenue, between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Avenue, into a southbound one-way, and Sixth Avenue, between Atlantic Avenue and 23rd Street, into a northbound one-way — but slipped it onto the agenda of a previously scheduled March 15 Community Board 6 meeting.

The board's district manager, Craig Hammerman, had few details — but is already scouting a really large auditorium where he can host the meeting, which is expected to draw a big crowd.

"This represents something radically different, so there will be a lot of people asking questions," he said. "It would represent a huge adjustment, so we need to hear what the positives and negatives are, and then, hopefully, DOT will let us weigh in."

Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights), who has been active in street parking and traffic flow issues, said the specter of Atlantic Yards was looming over the DOT proposal.

"The state approved the project, but the city is left holding the bag to remedy the tremendous traffic it will cause," Yassky said. As proposed, the mega-development will house 15,000-20,000 people — and bring

19,000 screaming basketball fans to the streets around Park Slope every game night and thousands of office workers every day.

"The proposal" will have many benefits including simplifying the turning movements at intersections to make it safer for pedestrians ... and narrowing the travel lanes on Seventh Avenue to encourage vehicles to travel within the existing speed limit," said agency spokeswoman Kay Sarlin.

Yassky said residents should greet the proposal with an open mind.

"No one likes change, so there will be some resistance to the idea, regardless of its

merits," Yassky said, citing inevitable confusion over re-routed buses and opposition from local businesses.

"My main fear is that DOT is doing this in the hope that Seventh and Sixth avenues become thoroughfares rather than what they actually are: local residential streets."

"Those avenues should not be thought of as ways of moving large numbers of commuters through Park Slope," Yassky said.

Eighth Avenue is already a two-lane, one-way street running northbound from the Prospect Expressway to Flatbush Avenue.

See **ONE-WAY** on page 15

## Park Choke!

### Most Slope traffic looking for a spot

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

The mystery of Park Slope's congested shopping strip has been solved: Nearly half of the cars on Seventh Avenue are simply looking for parking, a new study shows.

And one solution is to raise the cost of meters, says Transportation Alternatives, a cycling and transit advocacy group.

"The curb is full," said Paul Steely White, the

group's executive director, who wisely bailed to Tuesday's press conference.

White said the lack of parking spaces along the neighborhood's commercial spine is actually the cause of substantial traffic.

The TA study found that 45 percent of cars on Seventh Avenue during the day are looking for a spot. White said that parking is so hard to come by because it's too cheap, resulting in an almost 100-percent occupancy at the meters.

"We need to raise prices until a vacancy rate [of one to two cars per block] is achieved," he said.

Perhaps the setting of the press conference — a street corner in the People's Republic of Park Slope — inspired White to liken the situation to Soviet times.

"What we have now is equivalent to a Russian breadline — except instead of peasants lining up for bread, it's cars driving around for parking," he said. See **CHOKER** on page 15



It's in the sauce: A pizza gourmet at work at Forino in Williamsburg.

## PIE IN THE SKY

### Gourmet pizza a slice of life in Brooklyn

By Adam Rathe  
The Brooklyn Paper

"Pizza is the great common denominator among people," Michael Ayoub told GO Brooklyn this week. The crazy thing is, he may be right.

Sitting at a table in his award-winning Williamsburg restaurant, Forino, Ayoub was rightfully proud to be discussing his growing pizza empire. To call Forino, or its newborn Manhattan sibling Cronkite, a "pizzeria" is a mighty understatement. What he offers — gourmet pizzas with homegrown and high-end ingredients, including homemade mozzarella and three types of specialty flour — is about as far from a plain old slice as you can get.

And that's just the way he wants it. "When I was a kid," he said, "a slice of Sicilian at Pizza Wagon on 86th Street [was the best in town], but that was a different time and an undisciplined palate. At this point, I'm a little bit of a pizza snob."

Growing up in Bay Ridge, Ayoub began cooking at an early age. After teenage stints working in delis and restaurants, he opened his first eatery, Skaf-flies, at the age of 20. While the restaurant had to hold off on a liquor license until its owner was of age, Ayoub was intent on making it a success.

"In 1977, it was the first French restaurant in Brooklyn. At the time, I was a protégé of [famed chef] Claude Baillies. I used to work for him in the mornings and then come to my own restaurant at night and try out my own recipes."

After honing his craft at Skaf-flies, Ayoub continued opening restaurants across Brooklyn including the BAMCafe at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Park Slope steakhouse Mike and Tony's.

See **PIZZA** on page 12



## Clarence convicted — again!

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Three strikes and he's really out.

Disgraced former Brooklyn Democratic Party boss Clarence Norman was convicted last week of grand larceny — the third conviction in 18 months for the former Assemblyman, who vowed to appeal, yet admitted that he was finally out of politics.

"I'm out," he told reporters outside Brooklyn Supreme Court after he was released pending appeal. "No politics for me. That's in the past tense."

Norman was convicted in what prosecutors called a scheme to shake down a judicial candidate — a corruption verdict that follows earlier convictions for stealing \$5,000 from a campaign committee, and for trying to conceal \$10,000 in contributions.

He could face up to seven years at his April 16 sentencing on the latest conviction for extorting \$10,000 from the candidate, Karen Yellen, prosecutors said.

But Norman, 55, wasn't apologetic. "I feel at the end of the day, I'll be vindicated," he said. So does his prosecutor, Michael Vecchione.

"This case was about money and about stealing money, and the jury agreed with us," he said. The jury was swayed by testimony from Yellen, a civil court candidate in 2002, who said Norman demanded that she hire his favored consultant for what prosecutors called a shady get-out-the-vote effort that lined the pockets of Norman associates.


The Norman conquest is part of a wide-ranging probe by District Attorney Charles Hynes into whether Norman and other party leaders sold judgeships in Brooklyn.





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# WHERE TO

## EDITORS' PICKS

### SATURDAY March 3

#### Wig out

For one last night, power-House Arena goes head to head with Sienna Miller in attempt to get its 15 minutes of fame from rabid Warholics with "Andy Warhol is Dead!" a collection of photos of — and by — the pale pop icon. Conveniently, Warhol-related books are also for sale.

At powerhouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO). For information call (718) 666-3049.

### SUNDAY March 4

#### Lazy Sunday

"Hall Nelson" might not have taken home any gold statuettes at last week's Oscars, but this story about a teacher at a Brooklyn middle school (played by Ryan Gosling, below) is a good companion for your lazy Sunday on the couch. Rent a copy while everyone else is YouTubeing "West Bank Story."

Available at Video Free Brooklyn (244 Smith St. at Douglas Street in Carroll Gardens). For information call (718) 855-6130.



### MONDAY March 5

#### Haute depot

Stop by stylish new "urban garden center" OutsideNY to register for one of their classes — recently they've taught Brooklynites how to plant healing herb gardens and how to make the most of their own (tiny) outdoor spaces.

At OutsideNY (99 N. Tenth St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg). For information call (718) 782-4800.

### TUESDAY March 6

#### Weird science

The first in a four-part series, this afternoon event, titled "Mad Science of Brooklyn" features Glenn D'Cruz teaching kids about dinosaurs. Hands-on learning and fun activities ensure that your little angels don't go T. Rex crazy while they're learning about science.

4 pm at the Kensington Library (410 Ditmars Ave. at East Fourth Street in Kensington). For information call (718) 435-9431.



### THURSDAY March 8

#### New 'Shrew'

Get politically correct at the Kings County Shakespeare Company's updated "The Taming of the Shrew." The "gender-friendly" production, reworked by "Ruff Louie or What You Will," is still a battle of the sexes, only this time everyone's got safety gear.

8 pm at The Great Room at A.R.T.A.N.Y. (138 S. Oxford St. between 5. Portland and Cumberland streets). \$18. For information call (718) 398-0546.

# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

### SAT, MARCH 3

#### Jewish Festival of Purim

*beginning tonight*

#### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

ICE SKATING at the Wellman Rink, \$5, \$3 seniors and children, \$5.50 skate rental. 10 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 5 pm, 7 pm to 10 pm.

Prospect Park, access through the Parkside/Ocean Avenue entrance or the Lincoln Road/Ocean Avenue entrance. Call (718) 287-5522.

SALT MARSH: Urban Park Rangers explain the world of oaks. 1 pm, in the Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.

FORT GREENE PARK: In celebration of Women's History Month, the Urban Park Rangers host a talk on the significant roles women played in the American Revolution. 1 pm.

Meet at the visitor's center, near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park entrance. Call 311 for info. Free.

WALKING TOUR: Mauricio Lorence hosts a tour of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25, 2 pm to 5 pm, Marriott Hotel, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-4300.

PERFORMANCE

OPERA: Regina Opera performs Puccini's "La Bohème." \$20, \$15 seniors, \$5 teens. 7 pm, Regina Hall, 65th Street and 12th Avenue. (718) 232-3555.

BAM presents dance-theater "Three Atmospheric Studies" a work by The Forsythe Company. \$20 to \$70, 7:30 pm, Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

622 Brooklyn-Queens Conservatory of Music hosts Jazz at the Conservatory with Buster Williams. \$25, \$15 students and seniors. 8 pm, 58 Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3300.

GALLERY PLAYERS: presents "Violent," a musical set during the civil rights movement. \$15, \$14 children and seniors. 8 pm, 199 44th St. (718) 252-3101.

FIRST WEEKEND: Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents its new performance and discussion series featuring works by Ned Vizzini. \$15, \$10 members, \$8 low income. 8 pm, 421 Fith Ave. (718) 832-0018.

CHILDREN

KIDS MUSICAL: Tuckersberry Productions presents "Peter Piper Picks a New Profession." 3 pm, Peter Piper needs a new career. He picked peppers and just tongue-twisters — they're stomach-turners. \$10, \$7 kids, 1 pm and 3 pm. The Impact Theater, 100 Underhill Ave. between Sterling and St. John's, two blocks from the Brooklyn Museum. (845) 797-1300.

OTHER

FIRST SATURDAY: The Brooklyn Museum hosts its monthly event. Highlights include Ben in music performed by the Brooklyn Philharmonic at 5 pm; film "Word Life: The Hip Hop Project" at 5:30 pm; hands-on art project from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; talk on mythology as reflected in the museum's permanent collection and in the exhibit "Magic in Ancient Egypt: Image, Word and Reality" at 7 pm; dance party at 9 pm. More, 200 Eastern Pkwy. For complete program visit [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org). Free.

COMMUNITY EVENT: Come see "Strange Days on Planet Earth: The One Degree Factor," a short film hosted by actor Edward Norton. Learn about global warming and what we can do about it. Event is organized by the New York Aquarium, Yale University and Sea Studios Foundation. Sessions start at 10 am and take place at 11:50 am, 12:55 pm, 2:45 pm and 4:35 pm. Each session will

### SUN, MARCH 4

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## CIVIC CALENDAR

### SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Sunset Park Alliance of Neighbors. Community forum on development and zoning. On the agenda: Development of a 12-story building at 420 42nd St. Trinity Lutheran Church (Fourth Avenue at 46th Street), 11 am. Call (718) 573-9250 for information.

MONDAY, MARCH 5

Community Board 2, Waterfront Festival Committee. CBT office at 4201 Fourth Ave., at 43rd Street, 6:30 pm. Call (718) 854-0003 for information.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6

Park Slope Fifth Avenue BID Steering Committee and Park Slope Fifth Avenue Merchants Association. Weekly meeting. Call (718) 871-6340 for meeting time and location.

76th Precinct Community Council.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail [newsroom@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:newsroom@brooklynpaper.com) or fax (718) 834-9378.

### CHILDREN

SCRAPEBOOKING: Salt Marsh Nature Center invites kids to learn nature scrapbooking. Open to kids 12 years and younger. 1 pm, 5302 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.

KIDS MUSICAL: "Peter Piper Picks a New Profession." 3 pm. See Sat., March 3.

OTHER

FLEA MARKET: The Market of St. Faber 9 am to 3 pm, Bath Avenue and Bay 20th Street. (718) 236-1291.

PLATFORM: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture presents a talk "Moral Engagement in Everyday Living" 11 am, 53 Prospect Park West (718) 768-2972.

RECEPTION: Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents "In the Presence of Family," portraits by Ann Rosen. 2 pm to 4 pm, 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018. Free.

LANGUAGE AND LAUGHTER: Rehearsal for the French theater festival "Promesse Sacree" Hosted by The Language and Laughter Studio and Multi-Cultural Center, a foreign language immersion program. 3:30 pm, 397 New St. (718) 652-2965. Free.

CAFE STENOHOPE: presents the movie "Taxi Driver" (1976). 10:30 pm, 422 Seventh Ave. (718) 389-7776. Free.

See 9 DAYS on page 14

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**SOUTHERN AND EASTERN BROOKLYN** Brooklyn View (published independently).

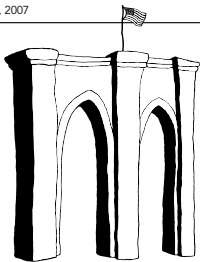
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# THE STOOP

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS—DUMBO DUMBO

## Fire makes school hotter

The fire is out at St. Charles Borromeo School in Brooklyn Heights, but the building is hotter than ever — thanks to a decision by the Brooklyn Diocese to close the school and sell or lease the property.

A minor blaze in the school's basement on Feb. 6 shut down the institution, but everyone was under the impression that the closure was only temporary. A week later, the Diocese announced that the Catholic school would never re-open.

The Church said that in the last couple of years "the number of students has dropped from 181 to 113."

The fire was the crown of thorns after the whipping.

The announcement took parents completely by surprise. But what is not surprising is how much money the Diocese could get for the three-story building, which is at 23 Sidney Pl. between Joralemon and State streets.

"Our general policy is to lease our buildings," Diocese spokesman Frank DeRosa told me. "We don't usually sell, but we haven't made a decision here yet."

Given the value of the building — and given how the so-called Borough of Churches is quickly becoming the Borough of Church Condos — it's clear how easily the Diocese could fill the collection plate by selling.

The building itself is in the Brooklyn Heights historical district — a landmark zone where all the buildings possess historical value. It's what we all love about the Heights.

Any changes to the exterior would have to be approved. But the Diocese can sell the building to whomever it wants, and that person can do whatever he wants on the inside.

"It's hard to tell what the building might go for without knowing what the ultimate use might be," said Brian Leary, a partner at the Massey Knakal real estate firm. "But the area is extremely desirable, and the fact that it's in a historical district raises the value." I also found out that a townhouse across the street recently sold for \$4 million. And since the school is about the width of three townhouses, all I can say is: Cha-ching.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

At least DUMBO residents don't have to resemble their neighborhood's namesake, thanks to the opening of **Fitness Guru**, the new gym on Front Street. There are no membership fees — only "pay as you go" fees for classes or training sessions. A personal training 10-pack costs \$700. Walk-ins who just want to use the equipment are also welcome — for \$35 a pop (or 100 sessions for \$1,000). It's not cheap, but neither is being out of shape.

How hip is DUMBO? So hip, that even babies need sample sales. **ModernTots** on Pearl Street had a sample sale last week, selling clothes, toys and baby furniture discounted up to 40 percent. We heard it was BYOP (bring your own pacifier). ... Who knew the **Brooklyn Public Library** could help you start your own business? The library is hosting a business plan competition for wannabe entrepreneurs. Submit your business plan for a chance to win \$15,000 in start-up money. Call (718) 623-7000 to register.

... **City Tech** is offering a new associate degree program in industrial design technology. Students will be trained to create 2D and 3D computer graphics and animations, use new technologies to solve real-world engineering problems and build civil robots to take over the world. ... **St. Francis College** is bringing back the love. On March 10, the school will recreate the love-all-mankind vibes of the 1960s and '70s by organizing a "Folk Fest" — an evening of music and fellowship reminiscent of events the school held 30 years ago. Tickets are \$20 and don't forget your bell-bottoms. ... If you're really curious about the history of baseball in Brooklyn, then the **Brooklyn Historical Society** is looking for you. Starting on March 3, the society is offering a series of classes for high school students on baseball, as well as courses on Brooklyn's historic homes, the SATs and AP History. Call (718) 222-4111 to find out more.

E-mail us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com)

### HEIGHTS LOWDOWN



Christie Rizk

## Big price for small buildings

By Christie Rizk

The Brooklyn Paper

How hot is Brooklyn Heights real estate? Two buildings and a vacant lot on Pineapple Street were bought this week by a New Jersey developer for \$7.4 million.

It's one of the biggest real-estate deals in recent memory.

"We got 20 offers on this property," said Brian Leary, a partner at Massey Knakal Realty Services, which handled the sale.

The two buildings, at 71 and 75 Pineapple St., currently comprise 36 units and a vacant retail space.

The buildings are in a historic district, so the developers — Rushbrook Partners — are limited with what they can do to the out-

side of the buildings. But they have almost unlimited freedom to redevelop the inside.

"They're going to refurbish what's there," said Leary, adding that 71 Pineapple St. may retain its retail space even after the conversion.

"The rental market is very strong right now and Brooklyn Heights is a very popular neighborhood," said Leary, adding that the high price reflects that.

## Greasing wheels in DUMBO

The Brooklyn Paper

Keeping DUMBO green is going to be a lot easier, thanks to an innovative program to transform used restaurant cooking oil into biodiesel fuel.

The DUMBO Improvement District is the latest organization to join the Doe Fund — the charitable organization that helps the homeless — in a program that will recycle frying grease from neighborhood restaurants.

The use of biodiesel as an alternative fuel source is taking off — and for a nation addicted to foreign oil and french fries, it might be the perfect solution to recycle and cut down on greenhouse gas emissions.

In January, Tri-State Biodiesel, a company that makes biodiesel fuel, got funding from the city to build a plant in Red Hook. The fuel — which is biodegradable and non-toxic — produces 78 percent less carbon-dioxide emissions than diesel.

"I've had a lot of favorable response from the neighborhood



The Brooklyn Paper / John Brown/Opinion

restaurants," said Bill Vitello, the program coordinator for the DUMBO Improvement District. "Just about all the restaurant owners down here are interested."

The service would be offered free — and tax deductible — to participating restaurants, which currently have to pay to get their cooking oil hauled away. (You didn't think they poured it down the drain, did you?)

Pete Thrinsto, the "Pete" of the Pete's Downtown restaurant at the foot of Old Fulton Street opposite the Fulton Ferry landing, said the grease-monkeying "sounds like a good thing."

"I'd definitely be interested in participating," he added.

The Doe Fund said it would formally unveil the program later this month.

— Rizk

Pete Thrinsto, owner of Pete's Downtown, shows off some of the cooking oil he will recycle into automobile fuel.

## More movement on Duffield

By Michael Giardina

The Brooklyn Paper

The "Underground Railroad" is surrounded.

Three properties on Duffield Street — lumped together by

their real-estate broker as the "Albee Square Assemblage" — are on sale for an asking price of \$33 million.

Zoning regulations passed in 2004 allow would-be buyers to tear down the low-rise build-

ings and build up to 40 stories.

"The zoning allows for almost anything," said Brian Leary, managing partner at Massey Knakal Realty Services.

The sale could gentrify the

neighborhood, say many residents and workers on the street, which includes two not-for-sale homes whose owners believe were once stops along the Underground Railroad.

"What can we do about it?" asked Simone, who works nearby. "They're going to put them up anyway."

One of the owners who is selling felt optimistic.

"I'm all for it," said Jayson Donegan. "Downtown Brooklyn has to be revitalized."

Donegan, who owns Jayson's Psychic Tea Room, disagrees with some in the community who are trying to protect some buildings on Duffield Street as landmarks.

"The buildings are not historic," Donegan said.

## Hunt Atlantic hit-and-run

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

Boerum Hill cyclist Sergio Revah is trying to find people who saw him get hit by a sporty 2000 Cadillac coupe traveling east on notoriously dangerous Atlantic Avenue (aka the "avenue of death and destruction").

The 49-year-old cyclist admits he was traveling against traffic on Feb. 7 at 1 pm when the Cadillac

— which he said was driving too fast on the east-west spine — turned left from Hoyt Street and slammed into him, according to a police report.

The impact threw Revah into the air. When he returned to earth, his hand was broken and his leg required 30 stitches.

Now he's hoping to find witnesses who could help him make his case against the driver.

If you witnessed the accident, write Revah at [10013@hotmail.com](mailto:10013@hotmail.com) or call (646) X77-1475.

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Call Synagogue for specific dates

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# THE stoop

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BOERUM HILL  
RED HOOK

## Espresso arms race in Gardens

Everything was happy and shiny at the new Starbucks at Smith and Wyckoff streets last week.

Black-clad recent hires fished for potential "regulars" with the naive optimism of first-year teachers in September. Inside, a beaming cashier asked me my name and if she would be seeing me "in the neighborhood."

A chalkboard behind her welcomed me to my "neighborhood Starbucks." Meanwhile, over on Court Street — inside what had been my "neighborhood Starbucks" until the new one opened on Smith Street — things were grimmer.

The reason is simple: The new Starbucks has two espresso machines. The older, bigger Starbucks has only one. To add insult to injury, the baristas on Court Street have been asking their corporate parent for a second machine for "forever," as one miffed employee put it.

And yes, all's fair in love, war and corporate growth strategy, but that doesn't mean that the guy or girl behind the counter won't be bitter.

"The corporate office says our numbers show we aren't busy enough for a second machine," she said, gritting her teeth. "The [Smith Street location] doesn't even have numbers yet."

OK, so little sister got the toy that big sister wanted. Isn't blood thicker than latte?

Maybe. But sibling rivalry is different than business rivalry, even when both sides are part of the same corporate family. As Cindy Lauper once put it, money changes everything.

A second espresso machine would go a long way at the Court Street shop. Java-slingers could prepare their double grande mocha latte frappuccino macchiatos two at a time. People would get their brew faster. The tip jar would fill.

"I guess they don't care if we are slower here," one barista said. "For them, whatever business is lost here they make there. But for us it matters."

Baristas at the two-machine shop were sympathetic to the plight of their fellow espresso-pullers.

"Two machines is totally normal," said one of the coffee-jerks, a hipster-looking guy who admitted that he had just interviewed for a new job at a record label.

He suggested that the \$2.4-billion-a-year company was cutting costs. Already, the losses in Seattle have reduced the number of new stores within a set market and of fear that the locations would cannibalize each other. But even so, what does it say when one location feels threatened by another location of the same chain?

Well, I'm no genius with making money (witness this job), but I do know one way the min-mocha monolith could trim overhead: open fewer stores in Brooklyn. Competition is bitter; the coffee business doesn't have to be.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

Bad karma, or just a good discount? **Casale Jewelers** on Court Street is closing — and the engagement rings are half-off. The Stoop says forget about symbolism and BUY NOW. Love is forever. Sales aren't. ... Speaking of the L word, The Stoop's favorite French-accented **Book Court** cash register queen — Amelie — has scored a regular gig performing burlesque at Billyburg's live music venue, **Rose**. Shows are the first Wednesday of every month. She promises laughs, and a little skin. Call (718) 599-0069 for show info. ... And he lived to let the PR tell the tale: **Long Island College Hospital** gets our Genius Award for turning a violent mugging into a marketing opportunity. When LICH's chief of pediatric cardiology, **Silvatore Presti**, took a brass-knuckled blow to the jaw last week, the hospital knew what to do: send out a press release alerting local reporters that even their own doctors use the emergency room when necessary. Presti is now healing from a reconstructive plastic surgery done by **Richard Westreich**, the hospital's chief of Facial, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. ... The **Boerum Hill Association** sent a letter to the city asking it to calm traffic on Third Avenue, especially the intersection of Baltic Street, where a 4-year-old was killed by a car that failed to yield to the crosswalk. Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com)

### BROOKLYN SOUTH



Ariella Cohen



## Welcome back, Mary

The former tanker Mary A. Whalen returned to Red Hook this week after repairs at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

## Former pol's fields of dreams

The Brooklyn Paper

A dream of ballfields along the Gowanus Canal has rolled into the far left field of history.

Former Carroll Gardens Assemblyman (perhaps better known as Sacred Heart third baseman) Frank Verderami has, after 33 years, given up on seeing the local sports complex that was promised for the vacant lot at Smith and Fifth streets.

City officials announced last week a proposal to build 500-600 units of housing and a public waterfront promenade at the 3.8-acre canal-front site, officially called the "Public Place for Recreational Purposes."

"They think [housing] is the best use for the land," the 77-year-old Little League veteran said last Thursday, following a presentation



Former Assemblyman Frank Verderami shows off old plans for ballfields at a site along the Gowanus Canal (behind him).

by the Department of Housing, Preservation and Development.

Verderami, who left office in 1972, supports affordable housing on the five-acre site, "espe-

cially senior housing," he said.

But he came to last week's meeting to remind city officials of their own 1978 recommendation that 70 percent of the land be

set aside for the Ebbeys Field of Little League (owners: unlike the Dodgers, these players wouldn't leave town, at least until graduating high school.)

"This was called 'the public place for recreational purposes' for a reason," he said, clutching a manila folder of yellowing city documents marked with city letterheads going back 30 years.

Along with its prime location between hip Smith Street and Park Slope's trendy edge, the Public Place's size makes it vital.

Verderami has been waiting long time, but he'll have to wait longer. Before any development can happen, Keyspan must complete a state-supervised cleanup of its oil-laced soil.

"Who knows if I'll live to see anything built there," he said.

## Cyclist hunts car that hit him



Sergio Revah

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

Boerum Hill cyclist Sergio Revah is trying to find people who saw him get hit by a sporty 2000 Cadillac coupe traveling east on notoriously dangerous Atlantic Avenue (aka the "avenue of death and destruction").

Without the witnesses who could help identify the driver, "I will be completely bombarded by medical bills for an accident that someone else caused," he said.

The 40-year-old cyclist admits he was traveling against traffic on Feb.

7 at 1 pm when the Cadillac — which he said was driving too fast on the east-west spine — hit him and slammed into him. When he returned to earth, his hand was broken and his leg required 30 stitches.

Revah admits that he is guilty of riding the wrong way, a violation of bike-safety laws and a reckless habit that nearly killed a Stoop reporter on the hood of an SUV.

But the collision is also part of a larger epidemic: Three pedestrians have been killed while crossing the avenue within the last year. The mix of traffic has caused 583 accidents

from Flatbush Avenue to the East River between January 2005 and November, 2006.

One transportation expert said this latest collision could've been prevented by better bike safety on the part of Revah and the city.

"Traveling against traffic was a bad move," said Aaron Naparstek, the editor of StreetsBlog.org. "But at the same time, there's no margin of error. In other cities, there would be a protected bike route."

If you witnessed the accident, write Revah: [10713@att.net](mailto:10713@att.net) or call (646) X77-1475.

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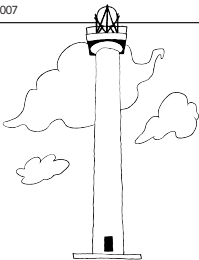
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# THE STOOP

FORT GREENE—CLINTON HILL

## Going postal over poor mail service

The U.S. Postal Service has had 232 years to hone the craft of delivering mail, but in Clinton Hill and Fort Greene, residents are nearly as likely to get their neighbors' missives as their own.

Or, as Clinton Avenue resident Luis Spangler put it, the mail service is "A-bys-mal, Atrocious, Horrendous."

"I've lived in various parts of Texas and South Carolina, and I briefly lived in Jersey," said Spangler. "I've suffered rude treatment but decent service, and poor service but reasonable treatment. But never poor treatment and poor service."

She's not the only resident sending verbal mail bombs to the post office.

"We're in a three-family building, and every once in a while, we'll get three days without a single piece of mail for the whole building — not even junk mail!" complained Nathan Gendzier, an Adelphi Street resident.

When Gendzier does get mail, at least twice a week, it's his neighbors'. And then there's that one time he received a letter intended for Nebraska (both states do start with an "N," after all).

It probably goes without saying, but the laundry list of complaints also includes a few about rude post office workers.

"One time I went in at 8 a.m. — purportedly the time the post office opens — and was told, after standing in line for 10 minutes, that though the post office opens at 8 a.m., the counter doesn't open till 9:30," recalled Spangler. "[There was] a complete lack of sympathy."

Spangler no longer trusts her neighborhood postal workers; she uses the post office that services her work address instead.

Fortunately for Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and the rest of the borough, the U.S. Postal Service is taking action.

Spokesman Tom Gaynor said the USPS is forming a "Brooklyn postal advisory council with representatives from each of the community boards" — one of only three citywide. "They will meet monthly with postal officials to address postal issues."

Even better, "We recently put an automatic postal center at [the Clinton Hill/Fort Greene post office], which can do about 80 percent of transactions."

To see the new service in action, I ventured to the Myrtle Avenue station, between Grand Avenue and Ryerson Street, to mail my little sister her birthday gift (she's turning 19! Isn't that sweet?).

Things are looking up. I used the new automatic machine to pay for the postage on my package, and a nice (I) post office worker actually helped me navigate the new system. I was in and out of there in five minutes.

Whether the package gets to Maine by Friday remains to be seen.

**THE KITCHEN SINK**

They are politicians, and they want less money. You read us right. Assemblymen **Hakeem Jeffries** (D-Fort Greene), and **Karim Camara** (D-Crown Heights) announced that they will voluntarily restrict fundraising activities in Albany while the legislature is in session, prohibit contributions from individual employees of organizations that receive member item funding; ban "soft money" contributions; and decline donations from Assembly employees. ... Brooklyn's natural side has inspired a series of artworks by local artists, now on display at **St. Joseph's College** in an exhibition called "Brooklynature: On the Gallery Walls." For information, call (718) 399-6755 or visit [www.sjcny.edu](http://www.sjcny.edu). ... Foodies, mark your calendars! On March 31, **Pratt Institute** will host its annual **International Food Fair**, with delectable cuisine from Guyana, Iran, and Colombia, not to mention live entertainment. Tickets cost a mere \$1 per plate — a bargain. The chowing down begins at noon in the ARC Building on the Pratt campus (200 Wooloughy Ave., between Hall Street and Classon Avenue). For information, call (718) 636-3674 or visit [www.pratt.edu](http://www.pratt.edu).

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### GREENE ACRES



Dana Rubinstein

## M'hattan dancers in B'klyn? Fuhgedaboutit!

The Brooklyn Paper

Community leaders are crying foul at the city's decision to give a Manhattan-based dance troupe prime real estate at the center of the developing BAM Cultural District.

Earlier this month, the BAM Local Development Corporation, the quasi-public agency working with the Bloomberg administration to make Fort Greene even more of a cultural hub, announced that Dancespace Project, an experimental dance troupe based in the East Village, would be the "anchor" of a new building at the center of the district. But Brooklyn community leaders argue

that the selection of a Manhattan organization to anchor a Brooklyn development is yet more proof of the mayor's unofficial policy of "Manhattanization."

The discontent is based on how we see the city wanting a large portion of Brooklyn just to reflect Manhattan," said the Rev. Clinton Miller of the Brown Memorial Baptist Church.

Miller presides over the Concerned Citizens Coalition, a neighborhood organization that's often critical of the BAM LDC.

"The selection of [Dancespace] substantiates the fact that the powers that be of New York City don't care about ... what indigenous Brooklyn has to offer," added Miller. Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) said "Amen" to the Rev.'s comments.

"The [city] Economic Development Corporation is Manhattan-based and they get their orders from [Deputy Mayor] Dan Doctoroff, who is so Manhattan-centric," said James. "The decisions don't come from this community."

"They bring me Dancespace, which I'm sure is a lovely organization, but they're not from Brooklyn. They're not taking into consideration [the dance organization] Urban Bush Women, or MoCADA."

MoCADA, the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, is based at 80 Hanson Pl., a building renovated by BAM LDC for the use of cultural groups.

The BAM LDC would not comment on the controversy.

—Dana Rubinstein

## This icy woman's just too hot

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

She was lovely before she melted.

A naked snow goddess made a short-lived appearance on a Fort Greene ledge this week, arousing admiration among area neighbors, before finally succumbing to Tuesday's above-freezing temperatures.

"Everybody was quite pleased," said artist Michael Benjamin, of his neighbors' reactions. "There weren't any lewd comments. They said that it looked like art."

Benjamin modeled the sexy, two-foot tall snowwoman with his bare hands over the course of an hour.

The result: a glistening, squatting snowwoman, her knees parted, one arm stretched luxuriantly behind her back, her sparkling white breasts jutting into the chilly night air.

"Everybody always makes snowmen, but you don't see too many snowwomen," said Benjamin. "Springtime is coming — the time when one thinks about formlessness."

His curvaceous lady, like all of his artworks featuring beautiful women, is modeled on his



The snowwoman of Clinton Avenue made a brief appearance and then got too hot for her own good.

wife — though she denied a resemblance.

"She said to me, 'My butt is not that big!'" said Benjamin.

The question remains: could Benjamin be onto something? Could his paradigm-shifting sculpture snowball into an all-out, feminist snowwoman-making movement?

He hopes so.

"I think we all would like to see more snowwomen," he said.

He might be onto something. Melody Drnach, vice president of action for the National Organization for Women, said NOW officially refers to so-called snowmen as "snowpersons."

"They're so androgynous," said Drnach. "[The term 'snowman'] goes back to the issue of why we still say 'fireman' and 'policeman.' It just goes back to the patriarchy."

And hasn't our society moved beyond that? For Pete's sake, Hillary is running for president! "If you were talking about a group of kids playing in the snow building snowmen, snowwomen, snowdolls, a snowfamily with two moms, that would be a lovely place to be in our world," said Drnach.

## Myrtle trees to get pruned

The Brooklyn Paper

Myrtle Avenue's trees are getting a long-needed trim, just as the neighborhood is sprucing itself up.

Like a haircut that's lost its sheen, the avenue's trees are in dire need of cutting back, with overgrown limbs and oddly shaped crowns springing up from dilapidated tree pits.

In response to a request from the Myrtle Avenue Revitalization Project, the Parks Department will prune the street trees from Flatbush to Classon avenues starting in April or May.

In late 2005, we noticed hazardous tree conditions along the Avenue, such as limbs breaking and branches obstructing pedestrian crosswalk signals," read the Project's

blog. "So we began reaching out to the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation to request that trees be pruned." According to Parks, one-tenth of the trees in a community board should be pruned each year, but residents should call 311 in case any particularly precarious-looking limbs pose an imminent hazard.

—Dana Rubinstein

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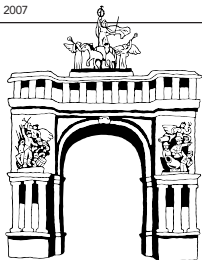
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# THE STOOP

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK  
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## Protesting the lack of protests

I was fired up when got out of bed Monday morning. I had stayed up late to watch the Oscars (I love Ellen, don't you?) and I was mad.

Melissa Etheridge's Oscar-winning song from "An Inconvenient Truth" rang in my head. With her one voice, she made a call for our generation to change things.

Yet what have I done? Oh, sure I use the lightbulbs that burn less energy, I recycle like a fanatic and I thought about buying a hybrid car. But do I ever get off my couch and tell the world where I stand? No way.

So I decided to make a change. I went out and protested. I made a sign which read "Today is the day to STOP the WAR." I held it up and marched down Seventh Avenue (OK, I actually walked, but when you're holding a sign, it feels like you're marching).

I thought Park Slope would still have some of those old radical veterans of the '60s protests, and lots of people who felt like me: fed up and frustrated. I thought people would cheer me on, if not join in.

I was mistaken. No one joined me: I remained the lone loony with the red-and-black sign from the first block to the 20th. I saw plenty of fellow Slopes, but they mostly tried to not see me, refusing to meet my eyes, and showing no emotion at all.

Two people gave me the thumbs up, and five smiled. But the smiles had a hint of pity in them, as if I looked well-meaning but also looked crazy.

Only three people spoke (and only two directly to me): One said, "I agree with you" as she got off the bus. Another, a student standing outside of the John Jay HS building, said "I— George Bush!" A third muttered to her friends, "She's right."

I returned home with mixed feelings. I felt good that I had gotten out there, that I had said something, that I had expressed the feelings of rage and frustration I have had for so long. But I also felt sad. One person walking down one avenue in one city seems futile. No one really cares.

What will it take to get us really angry? There have been 3,150 American service men and women killed as of Feb. 26, and more than 23,000 wounded. The numbers of dead and wounded Iraqis is certainly in the hundreds of thousands. Our nation is culpable, no matter what our intentions were.

Maybe the war is too far away, maybe it is too abstract for us to protest it. Well, for one day, at least, I didn't sit idly by. I took a stand, even if it was only one voice.

Maybe tomorrow, I'll go out again.

PS... I LOVE YOU



Nica Lalli



## A one-man dance party

Our pal, the "Tap Dance Man" of Prospect Park, goes through his routine in one of the park's tunnels. The dancer lays down a piece of wood and practices daily near the park's Grand Army Plaza entrance.

## Shutdown brings bitter exes, bake shop owners, together

By Nica Lalli  
The Brooklyn Paper

The feuding French bakers of Park Slope entered an uneasy détente this week.

Michael Martin, owner of Delices de Paris on Ninth Street, and his ex-wife, Rosanna Rosa of Café Zana on Seventh Avenue, are together again — that is to say their apple tarts are getting reconquered.

The Health Department played Cupid by closing down Martin's bakery last week after finding numerous violations.

The most egregious was raw sewage in the basement.

If that isn't romantic, here's what is: Martin is now telling his customers to go to his ex's bakery!



After the Health Department closed Delices de Paris, the owner put up a sign (left) asking customers to visit "our other location: Zana," owned by his estranged wife.

It's a far cry from the bitter pill Martin was dispensing back in December. As reported in The Brooklyn Paper, Martin hung a sign in his window after Rosa opened a rival shop two blocks away. He claimed that Rosa was deliberately trying to steal his customers with her similar shop.

All that is water under the bridge since the Health Department shut down Delices de Paris.

Martin is denying the code violations, claiming simply that the shutdown stemmed from a flooded basement. But obviously he and his former wife have made up, temporarily, at least.

Live in love (or, at least, the Board of Health!)

## THE KITCHEN SINK

We ran into our old pal Ellen Wurtzel at the Tea Lounge on Union Street this week. After six years and two kids, she's almost done — really — with her dissertation, "Legal Space and Urban Identity: The Shaping of the City of Lille from 1384-1667." Given her understanding of the shaping of Lille, which has very little of its history left, she opposes Atlantic Yards. "Lille was developed and destroyed!" she said. ... The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Cancer Society will kick off the first annual Relay For Life on March 10 at 4 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church (corner of St. Johns Place and Seventh Avenue). The actual race will be June 23. For information, call Courtney DeNicola at (212) 237-3964. ... Looking for a way to showcase your toddler's budding singing career? Perch, the hip Fifth Avenue brunch place, hosts the cool parents answer to "Mommy and me" classes. The twice-a-week Perch singalong is hosted by the KaiserCartel duo (of Park Slope Parents CD fame). Courtney Kaiser belts it out Mondays at 10 a.m. while partner Benjamin Cartel takes on the crowds on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Email us at Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com

## Power only half on at kid's gym

By Josh Saul  
for The Brooklyn Paper

The first floor of a children's gym remains closed, despite a promise that it was to have reopened by now — seven weeks after the Fire Department shut it down.

Powerplay, a frequently packed indoor gym on Third Avenue at Seventh Street, was closed after a Fire Department inspection revealed a lack of permits and a shortage of fire exits.

Also at issue was a day-care center that had been temporarily housed at the gym, despite the lack of a permit to operate there.

Once the day-care center was relocated, Powerplay was able to re-open its top floor on Feb. 3 — but the first-floor gymnastics facility, a resource for Park Slope and Carroll Gardens' budding gymnasts, is still closed.

The reason? A missing fire exit. "We have to get a second door cut there," admitted Robert Garcia, co-owner. "We'd like to do that ASAP, but it's not possible yet."

Garcia and his partner estimate that they have lost \$50,000 during the forced closure, but promise to take care of their long-time customers.

"We extended the term of classes that were interrupted during the closure," Garcia said.

Many gym users remain suspicious, given that Powerplay initially was vague about the situation and gave conflicting information depending on which day you called.

But at least one customer said she was satisfied. "Powerplay refunded the money for my son's birthday and apologized," said Evie Rabeck, who had scheduled a birthday party for her 3-year-old son Sidney that had to be canceled.

A new term of classes will now begin next week.

## Holy teardown! Slope church sold to be razed

The Brooklyn Paper

A long-shuttered Polish church on 15th Street will be torn down to make way for apartments, the latest house of worship to end up as housing in the Borough of Churches.

The Polish National Church was bought this week for nearly \$4 million. See **TEARDOWN** on page 4



This former church at 155 15th Street in Park Slope just sold for \$3.85 million.

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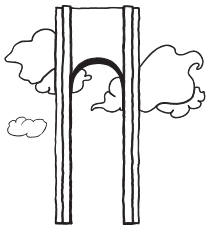
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# THE stoop

BAY RIDGE-BENSONHURST

## Sanitation versus Sonny

It's like an old Bronx Belt joke — only Sonny Soave wasn't joking.

"My neighbor on 80th Street received a ticket for a dirty driveway," Soave told me the other day. "So what's the big deal?"

"She doesn't have a driveway!" said Soave.

But he and his neighbors aren't laughing. Rather, they're convinced that enforcement officers from the Department of Sanitation are writing random tickets and littering them all over his perfectly clean block.

The trouble began earlier this month when Soave spotted an officer parked across the street from his house, so he went over and knocked on the car window. "I saw her writing tickets, without even getting out of her car," Soave said. "So when I asked her if she was going to write my neighbor a ticket and she just smiled at me and said no."

But Soave stuck around to see what would happen, and sure enough, the enforcement officer ticketed several people on his block, including his friendly neighbor.

"This is the part where Soave's disposition went from Sonny to not so sunny."

"The ticket stated that there were papers and candy bar wrappers in her driveway. Not only doesn't she have a driveway, but there were no papers anywhere near her yard," Soave said.

Soave has already taken the ticket to Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) and plans to ask Community Board 10 for help.

The councilman wants answers.

"People are feeling victimized by the DOS," said Gentile. "Instead of residents feeling a partnership with their local officials, they feel they are being harassed."

Gentile also believes that some residents have even given up on Brooklyn altogether.

Sonny Soave isn't going anywhere.

"Brooklyn is my home," Soave said. "Tell the DOS that they are the ones who should pack up their things and go."

I asked a DOS employee for his response to all the vitriol.

"The truth is, they usually won't ticket you unless you give them a reason," said my DOS source (call him Deep Truth) over an apple martini. "If you don't complain or ask them to do much, they won't ticket you. Just don't piss them off."

Officially, a DOS spokesman said that not only don't tickets exist, but agents are only enforcing the rules already on the book.

"The Department of Sanitation does not engage in any so-called ticket blazes," agency spokesman Matthew Lipani said.

"The dirty area violations can be written at any time, and encompass dirty backyards, alleyways, courts, alleys and air shafts, which must be kept clean at all times."

Regarding Sonny's neighbor's phantom driveway, Lipani said the issue of what constitutes a driveway is not for Sanitation to decide, but for the Environmental Control Board, which is where you go when you want to fight City Hall.

So how many government agencies does it take to decide what constitutes a driveway? Belet? Dangerfield? Anyone?

## THE KITCHEN SINK

Past the ribs, my friends! It looks like the sale of Griswold's has hit a snag. Sources say the restaurant, scheduled to close to make room for a bank, will now be open through May. ... Those capitalist pigs. In response to the fast-growing Chinese population in southwest Brooklyn, **Lutheran Medical Center** is celebrating the "Year of the Pig," by opening the area's first Chinese health care unit in 2004, a specialized unit designed to cater to the Chinese community and provide a culturally sensitive health care environment. Any Rand would be proud. ... A **waste-transfer station** planned for Southwest Brooklyn may be headed for the dump. Local greens are dredging up debate and petitioning residents to halt the mini-dump on the shore of **Grovesend Bay** in Bensonhurst. ... March is **Women's History Month**! On March 8, state **Sen. Mary Gorman** will honor the following women at his favorite place, the **Bay Ridge Manor**: **Iris Chiu**, **Andrea D'Emic**, principal of **St. Patrick's School**; **Carmella Golino**, from **St. Finbar**; **Sandy Irace**; **Virginia Lake**; **Bishop Kearney High School**; and **Maureen Neuringer** of the **Mapleton Kiwanis**. And you thought women's history month was all about mourning Anna Nicole Smith. ... Now here's a party: **Assemblyman William Colton** will be joining the Purim celebration at the **Shore Parkway Jewish Center** on March 4th. The celebration starts at 1 pm and ends with a costume contest. Colton will then lead participants to a rally against a waste station, where the group will toss traditional Hamantaschen cookies at the Department of Sanitation reps. ... She lost her race for the Assembly, but **Lucyella Regina-Potter** (who is also manager of **Bari Tile & Stone in Bensonhurst**) was named interim Republican District Leader in the 49th District. Congrats, Lucyella. Now, about those dirty area tickets.

—Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com)

## YELLOW HOOKER

Matthew Lysiak

## New block on the block

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

Mirror, mirror, on the wall — tell us which is the most historically distinct block of them all?

The likely designation of Ovington Avenue, between Ridge and Third, to the National Register of Historic Places will make it Bay Ridge's second historic district, joining Senator Street between Third and Fourth Avenues, which was designated in 2003.

And that sets up the inevitable debate: which block is Bay Ridge's most distinguished?

It depends on what you want: quality or quantity?

"Senator Street is the only street in Bay Ridge with brownstones on both sides," Eric Rouda, president of Senator Street's 300 Block Association, said at a Community Board 10 meeting last year.

The distinction of being the only block in Bay Ridge with brownstones on both sides is one thing, but then again, Ovington has one distinction that not only sets it apart from the rest of Bay Ridge, but quite possibly all of New York.

"Ovington Avenue has a row of double-width brownstones,



A row of attractive ornate brownstones graces the block of Ovington Street between Third Avenue and Ridge Boulevard.

which I don't think exists anywhere else in the city," said Victoria Hofmo, founder of the Bay Ridge Conservancy. "Not even on Senator Street."

Ovington Avenue will have to wait until at least April, when the New York State Office of Parks,

Recreation and Historic Preservation's review board considers the application to add it to the state register of historic places. National accreditation could follow.

Choosing between two elegant blocks of Bay Ridge brownstones is akin to making a father choose his favorite child,

Hofmo suggested.

"They are both so beautiful it would be hard to choose just one," Hofmo said. "The irony of it all is that [historians believe that] both blocks were created by the same architect."

One father, two equally gorgeous children, eh?

## Miss Polonia crosses bridge

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

How many Polish people does it take to hold a beauty pageant? Just three — if you can find three, that is.

That's how many contestants participated in last year's Miss Polonia of Southern Brooklyn pageant — and this year, organizers hope that the rapid decline in Brooklyn's Polish population won't spell the end of the venerable contest.

If so, Brooklyn stands a chance of not having one of its own don the coveted tiara and ride a float in the 70th annual Pulaski Day Parade this October in Manhattan.

"The Polish-American community remains strong, but the number of participants [in the pageant] is getting less and less," said Helen Trusnowski, a Miss Polonia pageant organizer.

The Polish-American population in southern Brooklyn has shrunk so dramatically that finding eager contestants is more difficult than finding pierogies on 86th Street. Of course, it wasn't always that way.

There's been a strong Polish population in Brooklyn since 1890, when Poles set up a community along Third Avenue in Sunset Park — and there are still Polish meat stores, bakeries and supermarkets in the "Little Poland" community of Greenpoint. But the older Polish-American community in Bay Ridge has fled across the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

"They got priced out and moved to Staten Island," said the owner of Polonia Restaurant at 7214 Third Ave. "When we opened, half my customers were Polish, and now it is down to less than half of that — and many of my Polish customers now make the trip from Staten Island."

The recent Polish exodus has been so dramatic that in the last few years Staten Island has begun its own Miss Polonia pageant.

To be eligible for the tiara, female contestants must be single, and have at least one parent of Polish descent.

If they get past that round, the young women face a panel of high-profile Polish-Americans



The winner of the 2006 Miss Polonia contest, left, with her runners up.

## Pol blasts R shuttle

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

The MTA leaves Bay Ridge R-train riders stranded at rush hour by taking trains out of service. Councilman Vince Gentile fumed this week.

The Bay Ridge Democrat slammed the MTA for forcing many Bay Ridge-bound R passengers to transfer to a shuttle bus at 59th Street, where trains are taken out of service rather than continuing to 95th Street.

"The MTA has designated 59th Street as the final stop for a significant portion of Brooklyn-bound trains during peak hours," Gentile said. "This is a major concern."

"The MTA is effectively telling riders

that there is no rush hour in Bay Ridge," added Gentile, who admitted that he did not know the exact percentage of trains that get taken out of service, but said he considered one to be one too many.

The councilman fired a letter to MTA President Lawrence Reuter on Feb. 7 demanding better service for Bay Ridge residents, and has yet to receive a response.

An MTA spokesman said that some R trains are taken out of service at the 59th Street station, but said it only happens when the trains are coordinated.

"When the train is parked at 59th Street, it means that usually there is another train right behind it, so that passengers don't have to wait," said the spokesman, James Anyansi.

The Straphangers Campaign, a com-

See **R TRAIN** on page 19

See **POLONIA** on page 19

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March 3, 2007

# And crime's not a charm

By Lilo H. Stalton  
The Brooklyn Paper

## 84th Precinct

Lightening may not strike twice, but crime can — in the same spot, no less.

A gun-toting thief robbed a man on the corner of Schemmelen and Bond streets on Feb. 26, police said. The 23-year-old victim said it was the second time he was mugged in the same spot.

No details of the first crime were available, since the victim never reported that robbery. But it was deja-vu all over again on Monday at around 9:30 pm when the thief pulled a black handgun and insisted, "Stop and give it up, or I'll shoot you!"

The experienced victim quickly dug into his pocket and turned over his cash — and the joke was on the robber. The value of the haul fell on a whopping \$3.

## Big bling burg

In just over 30 minutes, a Willowby Street jeweler lost nearly \$30,000.

Someone bulled his way into the jewelry shop, near Bridge Street, early on Feb. 21 and escaped with more than 100 diamond, gold and cubic zirconia items, police said.

When the owners of the shop, located a block off the Fulton Mall, arrived for work, they found the security gate halfway open and the front glass door inside smashed.

The missing items included 20 diamond watches, valued at \$20,000, 80 "fake bling" earrings, worth \$3,000, 17 ladies bracelets and a dozen or so gold pieces.

## Nailed

Patrons of one Brooklyn Heights nail salon had plenty to chit-chat about while waiting to dry on Feb. 25.

Police nabbed a 60-year-old man after he became a nuisance at the Henry Street shop and snatched a cellphone from the owner as she dialed 911 to have him ousted. Police Officer Juanita McMillan rolled up to the salon, near Pineapple Street, around 11:40 am, and cuffed the man on grand larceny charges for stealing the phone from the proprietor.

## \$ and pounds

A new employee of a Court Street, diet franchise lightened the company's assets by nearly \$3,000 by failing to deposit money into the company's bank account, as ordered.

The manager at the national franchise's local office, which is at Joralemon Street, told cops that between Jan. 3 and Feb. 10, the employee made off with \$2,788 in proceeds that were meant to be secured at the bank.

## 76th Precinct

### Homeowner hell

An angry man smashed up \$8,000 worth of marble, stole a computer and other items and threatened the life of the proprietor at a kitchen supply store on Union Street, police said.

The furious renovator arrived around 9 pm on Feb. 15, while the marble specialty shop between Columbia and Van Brunt streets was still open, and began to unleash his frustration on a series of marble slabs and kitchen sets.

"I want my money back," the irate man insisted, adding, "I will kill you — you'll see!"

The businessman told police the store-smasher was a former customer and they had a "history" of conflict over a job that the marble store did at his home four months ago. After nearly an hour of extracting vengeance on the countertops, he left, without harming the proprietor.

### Fashion victim

A thief stole a costly designer purse from a woman, and blackened her eye in a Feb. 25 robbery on Hoyt Street, police said.

The 30-year-old woman was near Baltic Street when the robber rushed her, shortly after 5 am. He knocked her to the ground, punched her in the right eye, and grabbed her Gucci bag — valued at \$900. The mugger disappeared with the bag, plus the car keys, credit cards, insurance papers and a Social Security card.

### Teen terrors

A quartet of thugs terrorized one of their 16-year-old classmates, telling him, "You're a dead

## Bad hair day

A Brooklyn woman lost nearly \$3,000 in hair-styling equipment when thieves broke into her car on Clifton Place on Feb. 25, police said.

The 30-year-old parked the 2000 Volkswagen Cabrio between Clason and Grand avenues around 10 pm. When she returned at 5:30 pm the following day, the front passenger-side window was busted and the hair-care items — including four pairs of Centrix scissors, worth \$1,850, a pair of feather waves, a dryer, various clippers and a curling iron, among others things — were missing.

## 88th Precinct

### Artless criminal

Someone stole thousands of dollars worth of electronics from a woman's dorm room at the Pratt Institute on Feb. 19.

The 21-year-old victim came home just after midnight to find her iMac computer, iPod and a battery charger missing from her bedroom, police said. The items had all been inside her room on Willowby Street, near Emerson Place, since she left at 10 pm.

The woman has three roommates and shares a bedroom with another woman — all of whom had access to the valuables, police noted. She had left the bedroom door unlocked.

### Fight and flight

The would-be thief who threw a woman to the ground on Clifton Avenue on Feb. 20 narrowly escaped arrest after clashing police in a mad dash through the neighborhood.

The robber rushed the 34-year-old woman as she walked by St. Joseph's College, near the corner of DeKalb Avenue, around 10:30 pm. He wrestled her to the pavement, insisting, "Shut up and give me your money."

That's when an 84th Precinct officer noticed what was going on. Seeing the cop, the thief released the victim and bolted empty-handed down an alley. The mugger dashed through the 90-year-old liberal arts college and onto DeKalb Avenue, with the police officer behind him. But eventually, the attacker — who could run like a track star despite wearing brown work boots — lost the cop.

### Shopper mug

Four men robbed a woman heading to the grocery store on Fort Greene Place on Feb. 20, police said.

The 66-year-old woman was walking between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place at around 10:45 am when the thieves rushed her. One of the muggers grabbed her bag, and the gang ran off before she could get a good look at them.

The victim's purse held credit and bank cards, her identity cards, medication and \$55.

### Traveling tunes

Two armed thugs stole an iPod from a man leaving a Park Avenue bodega on Feb. 19, police said.

The 32-year-old man stepped out of the store, near Myrtle Avenue, around 11 pm when two strangers rushed him, showed off a small black handgun, and demanded the music player.

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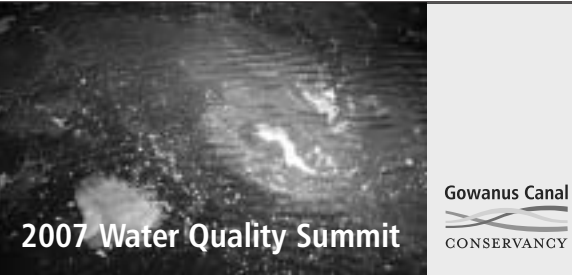
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**Gowanus Canal Water Quality Summit** is intended to inspire dialogue among participants concerning a variety of issues related to the canal's water quality. The summit will consist of a series of four evening workshops followed by discussion.

**Session 2: Causes & Potential Solutions to Water Quality Problems**  
Tuesday March 6, 2007

**Combined Sewer Overflows: Centralized and Decentralized Solutions**

This session will cover the number of overflow events that occur from the 16 existing combined sewage outfalls (CSOs) on the Canal. Topics will include a description of the CSO-sheds and regulators associated with each, a discussion of the existing threshold capacity of each regulator to avoid CSOs and an overview of modeling efforts undertaken to date. The session will then focus on some proposed solutions to the problem of CSOs in the Canal, including a centralized approach involving NYCEP capital projects and a decentralized low-impact development approach.

**Contaminated Sediments: Dredging, Disposal, Scrubbing or Reuse**

This session will focus on the spatial distribution of contaminated sediments on the floor of the Gowanus Canal and will provide a comparison to sediments elsewhere in the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary. The sources of contaminated sediments, and known and potential mechanisms of mobilization of contaminated sediments into the water column will be described. The session will then introduce solutions, such as the dredging and disposal of sediments and the dredging and reuse or cleaning of contaminated sediments.

**Contaminated Groundwater**


This session will describe the type of contaminants that are or could be entering the canal from riparian aquifers, focusing on recent findings of groundwater contamination in the Ikea and Whole Foods sites and mechanisms of transport of contaminated groundwater into the canal. Solutions to this issue will also be discussed, including "pump and treat" remediation of groundwater and the complete removal of contaminated soils.

**Session 3: A Green District in Gowanus?** Thursday, March 29  
**Session 4: Green Gowanus Charette** Tuesday, April 10

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**By Gersh Kuntzman***The Brooklyn Paper*

A popular Seventh Avenue candy store was broken into and pilfered overnight last week, losing more than \$3,000

in cash and phone cards.

The thief or thieves broke the lock off the security gate at the store, which is between Garfield Place and First Street, sometime between midnight on Feb. 21

and 7 a.m. the next day.

Once inside, they took \$500 in phone cards and \$2,600 from a brown paper bag behind the counter.

**Gym rat**

Another careless health nut was ripped off while going through his routine at a local fitness club.

The latest theft took place on Feb. 25 at a club on Ninth Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues. The gym rat told cops that he placed his clothes and belongings in a locker — though did not lock them up — and began his workout at around 2:30 p.m.

An hour later, he returned to find his wallet and his cellphone were missing. He immediately cancelled his credit cards.

**Angry librarian**

A woman who works at the public library on Sixth Avenue near Ninth Street had her purse stolen from her desk on Feb. 23.

The woman said she had left the purse in its usual place at 3 p.m. and went about her business of serving the book-loving public. Two hours later, she noticed the bag — containing various credit cards and \$60 — was gone.

**Clerk robbed**

A woman working at a Fifth Avenue clothing store had her purse stolen from a spot behind the register on Feb. 23, cops said.

The witness told police that she saw a woman walk into the store, which is at Union Street, and go behind the counter to take the purse. The witness said the woman was wearing a black skullcap and had "unusual teeth." But she must have known something, because the 24-year-

**78 PCT BLOTTER**

old victim told cops that her handbag, itself worth \$400, contained \$300 in gift cards, and various credit cards.

The thief rang up more than \$1,300 before the cards were cancelled.

**Laptops lifted**

At least two portable computers were carried away by thieves in Park Slope last week.

In the first case, an Eighth Street man said a burglar broke into his apartment, which is near Sixth Avenue, and took his Apple iBook. He said the crime must have occurred between Feb. 16 and Feb. 19.

The 55-year-old victim said the computer is worth \$1,300.

In a similar heist, a resident of a Fifth Avenue apartment between 11th and 12th streets lost his laptop to a thief who sneaked in through an unlocked door after 10 p.m. on Feb. 21.

The 28-year-old victim told cops that when he returned home two days later, he discovered that the Dell computer was missing.

**Union haul**

A man was mugged of his iPod while he walked on Union Street in the heart of Park Slope on Feb. 21.

The 46-year-old man was walking on the block between Sixth and Seventh avenues at around 10 p.m. when a thief rushed over and reached his hand into the victim's pocket to pull out the music device. The victim described the perp

player and a \$500 digital camera.

The 17-year-old thief later sold the equipment on the street, cops said.

The stepdad, who lives near Seventh Avenue, told police that his stepson "has a medical condition and is currently under the care" of the city Administration for Children's Services.

He also told cops that he intends to press charges, as it is not the first time that the teen has ripped him off. Over the past year, the troubled youth has taken other DVD players, another camera and more than \$1,000, he told police.

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**New fixes at Slope church**

The Brooklyn Paper

New scaffolding surrounds the bell tower atop St. Augustine Roman Catholic church, the latest part of a multi-year restoration effort on the 120-year-old cathedral on Sixth Avenue.

A sidewalk shed first went up in late 2004 to protect pedestrians from falling debris — but a cash shortfall forced the church to wait until now to begin the much-needed repairs. Having raised \$800,000 from grants and fundraising, the church can begin to restore its 10-story tower.

"We can only bite off one project at a time," said Rev. Robert Whelan. Also on the list of repairs is a roof that dates back to 1886 and some stonework around the façade. But that will have to wait.

— Michael Giardina

**TEARDOWN...**

Continued from page 3

million by a Queens developer, who will tear down the old church and build condos.

No surprise there.

"For the most part, [developers] are taking down structures that are past their usefulness and building something the community can use," said Larry Sam, one of the Realtors handling the sale at Messey Knakal Realty Services. "It's been this way for four or five years."

The church, which is on 15th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues, was sold by the Polish National Catholic Church of the Holy Cross because most of the congregants had been priced out of Park Slope.

"Most of the church members moved out to Long Island," said Sam, "so the church followed them."

Zoning restrictions along Park Slope's side streets bar the developer from building taller than 50 feet.

"This particular developer builds very high-quality housing," promised Sam.

That's what the neighbors are praying.

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March 4th: Moral engagement in everyday living

March 11th: Grassroots women model ethical change at home and at The UN-GROOTS INTL

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March 25th: Women "Herstory" Panel

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**LEGAL NOTICES / NAME CHANGES**

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 7th day of February, 2007, bearing Index Number NS0097/2007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 002, grants me the right to assume the name of Arlene Gordon. My present name is Vasileva Zhilovska. My present address is 1233 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11230. My place of birth is in Ouhavsko, Bulgaria. My date of birth is January 9, 1968. MD09

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 7th day of February, 2007, bearing Index Number NS0098/2007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 002, grants me the right to assume the name of Arlene Gordon. My present name is Vasileva Zhilovska. My present address is 1233 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11230. My place of birth is in Ouhavsko, Bulgaria. My date of birth is August 28, 1962. MD09

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# Attacked with screwdriver

By Matthew Lysiak  
and Michael Giardina  
The Brooklyn Paper

## 68th Precinct

A landlord-tenant dispute degenerated into violence on Feb. 25.

The trouble began in the basement of a 67th Street apartment at 2 pm when the landlord grabbed a screwdriver and slashed the 41-year-old male's chest, sending the victim to Lutheran Hospital with a laceration.

The landlord fled on foot.

### WWF thugs

Three thugs used a choke hold to restrain a 39-year-old man before robbing him of his cash on Feb. 25.

The victim was walking on 10th Avenue, near 63rd Street,

## POLICE BLOTTER

### BB bandit

A 17-year-old male was shot in the elbow with a BB gun before choosing a questionable escape route on Feb. 25.

The victim was walking with two of his friends on Tenth Avenue towards 68th Street at just before 1 pm when he felt a sharp pain on his inner right elbow — caused by a BB-gun pellet.

### Caught on tape

A truck, surveillance system and a whole lot of meat were stolen from a business at Ninth Avenue and 64th Street on Feb. 24 — and it was all caught on tape.

It happened after the victim closed shop for the day. When he returned the next morning at 8:30, he discovered damage to the front door and security gate.

The perp had bypassed the alarm system and removed the truck

filled with \$5,000 in meat and the \$1,500 surveillance system.

The truck was later recovered on Third Avenue near 49th Street. Cops are reviewing footage of the incident for leads.

### Cat-fight

Two women arguing over a man at an 11th Avenue bar resulted in one woman's face being sliced with a wine glass on Feb. 3.

The fight occurred at 3:05 am, when one woman approached another and confronted her about a guy they both knew.

The scorned woman fled on foot down 65th Street.

The fight occurred at 3:05 am, when one woman approached another and confronted her about a guy they both knew.

### Laptop stolen

A 12th Avenue business lost its laptop on Feb. 22.

The theft was discovered the next morning, when an employee opened the 77th Street shop at 8 am. The thief had broken in through the rear window and then helped himself to the laptop, which is valued at \$2,000.

### Mouse burglar

An enterprising burglar entered through a hidden hole in the wall to swipe cash from a Third Avenue store on Feb. 22.

The crime at a business, which is located at 92nd Street, was discovered at 9 am when an employee opened the store to find a radiator cover pushed aside and a small hole leading to the vestibule of an adjacent apartment building.

Cops are searching for the perp, who made off with a \$195.

### 62nd Precinct

#### Additional tip

A Bensonhurst man who forgot his wallet on the kitchen table of his home on Bay 38th Street later found it missing.

The man left his apartment, which is near Benson Avenue, at around 10 am on Feb. 24, with a utility worker inside. The man returned to find his wallet — which contained \$300 and credit cards — had been snatched off the table.

The victim didn't actually see the crime, but told cops that he suspects the worker.

#### Purses!

A man toting a purse-like bag was mugged on Feb. 26 while walking home from the 86th Street subway station.

The victim had gotten to Bay 17th Street at around 7 pm when two thugs came up from behind, grabbing him and poking him in with an unknown weapon.

"Give me your bag!" one of the henchmen demanded, and the man complied.

The perp fled down Bay 17th Street with \$80, a cell-phone, and credit and debit cards before the victim could get a good look at them.

#### Troubled teens

Two brothers were robbed at gunpoint on Feb. 25 while walking home from their friend's house on 80th Street.

The two teenagers were near New Utrecht Avenue at around 9:30 pm, when two perps —

dressed in all black — came from behind and pushed them against a wall.

One crook then pointed a black handgun at one of the brothers' foreheads and stole their cellphones.

The thugs fled without being noticed.

#### Malt licked

Two bottle-toting thugs were arrested after robbing and assaulting a defenseless bicyclist on Feb. 24.

The two perps approached the victim at around 2 pm and demanded that he "sell" his bike for \$10. When he refused, one of the men assaulted him with a 40-ounce bottle of a malt beverage, police said.

In the scuffle, the victim was able to get away, running into a 20th Avenue store to call the police.

After the 911 call, the thugs snatched the bike and fled down 20th Avenue. But police arrested the two perps near 78th Street, and recovered the bike.

#### Gunpoint mug

A man walking home from his girlfriend's house on 78th Street was robbed at gunpoint on Feb. 25.

The victim was near 18th Avenue at around 9 pm, when the two perps came from behind him and stuck a gun into his neck. One perp demanded, "Look down. Don't look at us. And give us what you got."

In the meantime, his partner removed \$60, and a digital music player from the victim's coat pocket, police said.

The man wasn't able to identify the perps.

#### Purse snatch

A 62-year-old woman was mugged while walking on 65th Street on Feb. 20.

The victim was near 16th Avenue at around 8 pm when a thug came from behind and attempted to snatch her purse, police said. The victim resisted, but she released the purse after the bandit punched her in the side of her forehead, knocking her to the ground.

The crook fled down 65th Street with more than \$110 in cash. The woman wasn't able to get a good look at the thug.

#### Lunchtime raid

A man returned to his Bay 11th Street apartment on Feb. 25 to find the front door kicked in and his home robbed.

The perp took more than \$11,000 in the break-in, which was discovered at around 1 pm when the victim returned to his home, which is near Cropsey Avenue.

Unfortunately, none of his neighbors saw the perp leave, and no one was able to identify the criminal.

#### Store swipe

An 46th Street store had its cash registers emptied in a Feb. 19 robbery.

The store, which is near 23rd Avenue, was broken into around 9 pm. According to police, the perps entered through the ceiling, and cleaned out the joint, stealing more than \$2,000.

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# Finding your own space on MySpace

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

Madison is a young, single Brooklynite who just graduated from Harvard Business School. She reads the New York Times, listens to hip-hop and jazz and is bisexual, all of which she talks about on her MySpace page.

Her friend Dakota is a "swinger" and a "freaking sex machine" who wants to meet "people who want more out of life." She's not picky.

"I like couples and/or singles. Hell, I'd even dig the idea of families joining in," she writes on her own MySpace page. "I want all the lusty types that are too hip for Williamsburg. I want all the East Villagers to have more space to create in."

Want to meet these hot babes? Alas, you'll have to wait until they're built.

For Madison and Dakota are



A screen-shot of the mySpace.com page selling apartments at a building on Pacific Street.

not potential mates, but merely two of six condo towers that will soon rise on Pacific Street, near Washington Avenue, in rapidly

gentrifying Prospect Heights. Each building has its own MySpace page. The real-estate blog, onehansonplace.com, first

reported the story and credited the local real-estate firm of Aguayo and Haschner with the clever — or, frankly, not so clever — sales pitch.

"It looks like [they] hired a marketing mind never really seen before in real estate," the blog said.

Other buildings are a little less kinky. "Hudson" is a married 27-year-old with kids; Sydney is a smoker, a drinker and straight; Austin likes watch TV with friends (he has 800 channels); and Montana likes XM Radio and counts her mom as one of her heroes.

And though they market themselves as easy, they're not cheap: Studio apartments at Madison and her friends start at \$524,000.

Peggy Aguayo of the Park Slope-based company didn't want to comment on the MySpace marketing until the company is ready to reveal the details later this month.

"The pages are up and some word got leaked, but I don't want to say anything more," Aguayo told The Brooklyn Paper.

The buildings are already going up. Can spam emails be far behind?

## City douses firehouse sales

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

Don't sound the siren yet — city officials have put a hold on much-reviled plans to auction off vacant firehouses.

Mayor Bloomberg announced on Wednesday that he would create a task force of elected officials and Community Board leaders to examine how the city should dispose of shuttered firehouses.

The immediate result of the mayoral move halts the sale of Engine 204 on Degraw Street in Carroll Gardens, a narrow brick building that was decommissioned in 2004 and was in the midst of being sold off by the city, despite local objection.

But the creation of the task force doesn't mean such sales won't proceed, said Bloomberg spokesman John Gallagher.

"[But] it will result in uses for these properties that best meet the needs of the communities where they're located," Gallagher added.

Bloomberg closed the engine company as part of a larger cost-cutting measure. Activists were still trying to get the facility reopened in January when the city announced that it was working to do just the opposite by beginning the process of selling the building.

The task force announcement comes after weeks of public meetings that ended with residents, local elected officials and Borough President Markowitz exhibiting a rare degree of harmony in their opposition to the mayor's plan to sell.

"New developments occurring along Schermerhorn and Livingston streets, Fourth Avenue, the Gowanus Canal area and Atlantic Yards is [sic] going to bring thousands of new residents and businesses to the area," said Markowitz, whose approval for Atlantic Yards is exceeded perhaps only by his love of the borough.

Still, it's unlikely that 299 Degraw St. will ever again house the city's Bravest. A spokesman for the city's department of Citywide Administrative Services said Wednesday that officials from the department of Housing, Preservation and Development are already eying the property.

"HPD has expressed interest," said spokesman Mark Daly.

The idea of converting the old firehouse into housing isn't coming out of nowhere. At a Community Board 6 hearing last month, a number of neighborhood residents suggested that the city housing agency convert the building into affordable apartments or condos.

# The latest poop-posal

## Mayor seeks stiffer fines, politicians do duty

By Matthew Lysiak  
The Brooklyn Paper

Legislators have put their foot in the middle of a messy debate by backing Mayor Bloomberg's call to increase fines for poop-scooper violators.

After Hizzoner called for stiffer penalties on excrement scofflaws last week, the Assembly passed a bill that would do just that, raising the fine for repeat poop-poops from \$100 to \$250.

State Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) is pushing the Senate version of the bill. "It is about time someone deals with this," said poop-weary 79th Street resident Maryanne Gouras. "Whatever deterrent is in place now is clearly not working, and I think increasing the fine is a terrific idea."

Gouras believes the poop problem has only gotten worse in recent months, and often finds herself hosing down her walkway on a Saturday afternoon.

"It wasn't like this a few years ago," Gouras added. Golden said he was happy to back the mayor's bid to wipe out inconsiderate dog walkers. "It's disgusting and unhealthy," he added.

So, is all of Brooklyn going to the dogs?

Steve DeBano, who works for Petato, a dog-walking and pet-sitting service catering to Brownstone Brooklyn neighborhoods, believes the answer is yes, but the problem varies in severity depending on geography.

"Park Slope isn't so bad comparatively," said DeBano. "But parts of Prospect Heights and Fort Greene are unbelievably disgusting."

The Golden bill is required because the state legislature must approve hikes to city-administered fines. If it passes the Senate, Gov. Spitzer is expected to sign it.

The city's poop-scooper law — which caused controversy when it was created in 1978, yet is widely heralded today — allows cops, sanitation workers and parks personnel to ticket dog owners who don't pick up after their pet.

Thousands of tickets have been written since, peaking in 1999, when more than 2,100 summonses were handed out, according to the Department of Sanitation.

In 2005, the last year for which there are complete records, just 471 dog-walkers were nabbed.

Some dog lovers believe increasing the fine isn't necessary, and that results can be better by increasing enforcement of the existing law.

"Dog owners are supportive of any and all dog-poop deterrents," said Brad Aaron who runs the pet blog "Poop City." "But increasing the fine won't do any good if there isn't enforcement."

DeBano agreed that enforcement is the key.

"Raising the fine would be a great thing, if anyone ever actually got fined for it," DeBano added. Aaron struck on one point of universal consensus.

"One thing that everybody agrees on," Aaron said. "No one wants to step in a pile of dog poop."



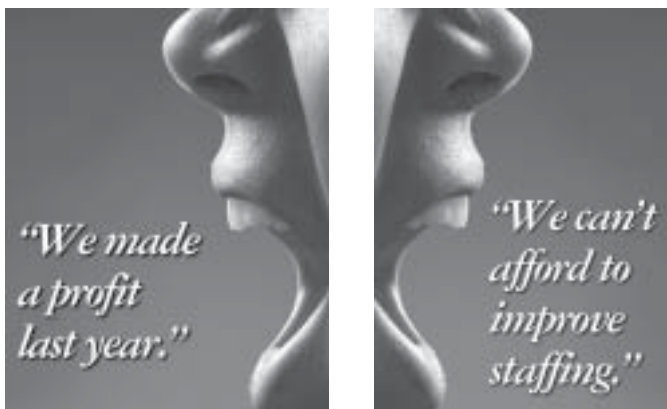
A Park Slope man does the right thing with his pal, Nelson. Soon, fines for violating the "pooper-scooper" law will rise.



## Nets' King at kid clinic

Youngsters gave former New Jersey Nets star Albert King rapt attention during a b-ball clinic at Bay Ridge's St. Ephrem's on Friday. The day-long event, part of a series sponsored by Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner, gave children from Brooklyn public and parochial schools a chance learn tricks of the trade from King, a Fort Greene native. The kids picked up pointers — and Forest City Ratner t-shirts.

# What is the REAL financial situation at Interfaith Medical Center?



Administrators say one thing to the public and another to nurses.

\* New York Daily News and New York Post, Nov. 21, 2006

Interfaith Medical Center administrators have stated publicly\* that the hospital **broke even** in 2005 and **turned a profit** in 2006.

But in meetings with concerned registered nurses, hospital managers say they **can't afford to improve nurse staffing**.

## Interfaith needs more nurses

Occupancy rates at Interfaith traditionally have been higher than 90%. With the closing of St. Mary's Hospital, **even more patients** are being admitted.

Interfaith RNs report that, in some cases, one nurse has been assigned to care for 10 patients. The recommended ratio is 1 nurse to 5 patients.

## Interfaith must make a commitment to patient care

Nurses at Interfaith believe the residents of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, Bushwick, Crown Heights, East New York, and Flatbush deserve more than just talk.

Call Interfaith CEO **Edward Glicksman** at **718-613-4000**. Tell him you deserve better.

A message from the RNs of Interfaith and the

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## OUR OPINION

## City left with Yards mess

**B**RUCE RATNER HAS BARELY PUT A shovel in the ground at his Atlantic Yards mega-development and already the city's Department of Transportation is in a frenzy to put Band-Aids on the machine gun wound that the project will cause in the heart of Brooklyn.

This week, the DOT dropped the bombshell that it is planning to convert Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope — which borders Ratner's arena, office and residential Xanadu — from two-way to one-way.

At the same time, one lane of traffic would be removed from busy Fourth Avenue in each direction.

The news is so huge, that when a Brooklyn Paper reporter mentioned it to one of our local elected officials, the lawmaker screamed, "Holy f—!"

We prefer a different expletive: We told you so. Don't misunderstand. The Department of Transportation should be commended for rolling up its sleeves to address the massive traffic that the still-unbuilt Atlantic Yards will cause. DOT didn't

create that traffic, but is showing that it intends to at least try to remedy it.

No, the blame for the borough-wide traffic crisis belongs higher up the public-policy food chain. The state planners who championed Atlantic Yards ignored facts on the ground — namely the millions of square feet of residential and office construction already going up, our already overburdened through streets, and, astoundingly, the existing traffic on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway — when they decided that this 22-acre mega-development could be absorbed with just a little tinkering here and there.

In the real world, those planners would not have considered Atlantic Yards in a vacuum. They would have said — as many outside experts did — that traffic solutions must be wide-looking, not piecemeal.

Ratner, for example, said he will subsidize train travel to discourage Nets fans from driving to the arena. But his partners in the MTA have said they

won't add train and bus service before and after games, so that "solution" only creates another problem.

Study after study has shown that all the neighborhoods around Atlantic Yards are already suffering from traffic. Atlantic Avenue saw 583 crashes from Jan. 2005 to Nov. 2006, including three fatalities. Fort Greene has 1,759 cars circling for 1,089 available parking spaces. Almost half of the cars on the road in Park Slope are looking for parking, too.

On paper, there are ways to fix each of these problems — but the fixes often just push the trouble to other areas.

Nowhere is that piecemeal approach as damaging as at Atlantic Yards, a mega-development that includes the de-mapping of local streets and the creation of two artery-clogging superblocks.

Proposals by state planners allied with Ratner were made in a vacuum and with no consultation with agencies like the DOT that will be left holding the bag — and the rest of us stuck going nowhere.

## ALL DRAWN OUT



Chris Remington

## LETTERS

## Principals say John Jay is getting better

To the editor,

Nica Lalli's column ("The Ghosts of John Jay," Park Slope Edition, Feb. 10) pondered why the La Bruschetta pizzeria across the street from the school would hang a "No students allowed" sign on its door.

Lalli points to this sign as evidence that the "neighborhood's sentiment toward the school and the students — you are not a

part of our neighborhood — remains" even though the John Jay building has changed.

In the past couple of years, the three schools inside the John Jay building have made many changes in our efforts to improve the quality of education we provide our students. I am pleased that Lalli found our students' work and its quality "improving."

But I must vehemently disagree with her statement that our goal is "for John Jay to become an educational center that works for the people who live near it, rather than a dumping ground for the system's worst students with only pockets of high-quality education."

Our goal is to provide high-quality education to our students. Whether they live in Park Slope or the surrounding neighborhoods or surrounding boroughs, our students are not refuse to be dumped anywhere.

It is ironic that the exhibition Lalli attended explored the issues of gentrification and neighborhood change in Brooklyn when right across from the school hangs a sign that singles out for exclusion the predominantly black and Latino teenagers who attend the schools but don't live in the neighborhood.

Lalli contends that the sign in the pizza parlor will surely come down when the student body at the schools live in the neighborhood. The sign needs to come down now. It's not the ghosts of John Jay haunting us; it is the ghosts of Jim Crow. **Al Bloomberg, Park Slope**

The writer is principal at the Secondary School for Research housed within the former John Jay High School building.

*Editor's note: Lalli did not say she shared the pizza-parlor's viewpoint, but merely tried to explain why Park Slope and the schools housed in the former John Jay High School building have a bad relationship. She also never professed to tell the schools what their mission should be, but merely stated that many in Park Slope hope that someday they can send their children to a vibrant, high-quality, community-minded local high school.*

To the editor,

Nica Lalli's column reflects the continuing ambiguous relationship the Park Slope community has with the schools located there. Build Stayvantage and we will come, she says. Otherwise, she says, we are the trash heap of the borough.

Such black-and-white thinking — and it

is black and white in more ways than one — does little to improve the situation. The fact is, my school is a popular choice. More than 1,400 students applied for admission to our ninth grade last year. We do have worthwhile programs and, believe it or not, a solid cadre of high-performing students.

Our debate team spent their winter break

helping Habitat for Humanity rebuild New Orleans.

Any public high school in New York City has an impact on the surrounding neighborhood. Some shopowners want student business, and some don't. That's hardly the measure of a school. What counts is what goes on inside the building, and Lalli failed to find that out.

I appreciate every effort that community members have made to reach out to our building. We continue to work on making this school the best it can be.

**Larry Woodbridge**  
The writer is principal of the Secondary School for Law, housed within the former John Jay High School building.

## No to Wal-Mart

To the editor,

I was surprised and highly disappointed to read your editorial piece on Wal-Mart ("Why say no to Wal-Mart," Feb. 17).

Using words like "spotty" to refer to Wal-Mart's labor record is shameful, and 1.3 million women would agree with me. Wal-Mart destroys communities that they build in, plain and simple.

And I wonder, why the editorial would be so pro-Wal-Mart, without some sort of incentives. Brooklyn does not want another irresponsible, multi-billion-dollar company taking advantage of Brooklynites.

Brooklyn will not change Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart will change Brooklyn. **Brendan Sexton, Manhattan**

## LIU offers health aid to neighbors

To the editor,

As many know from reading The Brooklyn Paper, Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus has long offered free events like dance and music performances, art exhibitions, films and lectures, specialized education programs, as well as free days for hearing and speech clinics and, for those with limited incomes, tax return preparation.

What some Paper readers may not know is that they can get free preventive care health services here as well. Within the Campus's Wellness, Recreation and Athletic Center, a just-opened facility offers blood pressure monitoring, health-risk assessment, health teaching for parents, HIV counseling and testing, medication review and management, mental health screening, smoking cessation and weight-loss programs.

Starting on May 30, mammogram screenings will be available every Wednesday. All at no cost, for anyone who makes an appointment.

This facility is part of a new breed of nurse-managed health-

care providers, here operated by the School of Nursing and called the Harriet Rothkopf Heilbrunn Academic Nursing Center in honor of a key donor. It plans all its services with community input and recently provided space for Brooklyn's first chapter of the Lupus Foundation, addressing a disease that disproportionately strikes young women of color.

Also at the Wellness Center, programs and facilities are in development to answer asthma, lead-paint exposure and other urgent urban health threats.

The Wellness Center, still barely a year old, is more than a site for athletic competitions and workouts. LIU is committed to using this resource to contribute to the health of our neighbors.

Please note: Appointments are required for most services, generally offered on a weekly or monthly basis. Call (718) 488-1281.

**Peg Byron, Fort Greene**

*Editor's note: The writer is a spokeswoman for Long Island University. Last week, Dana Rubinstein's column in The Paper's Brooklyn Heights-Downtown Edition suggested that LIU open its swimming pool to the public.*

## Paper off base on BPL

To the editor,

I must reject the criticism of the Brooklyn Public Library's exhibition, "Footprints: Portrait of a Brooklyn Neighborhood" ("The photos BPL doesn't want you to see," Feb. 17). This exhibition successfully depicts the potential adverse impact of the Atlantic Yards project on both housing and the creativity, strongly suggesting what will be lost if this project is built.

The BPL exhibition staff deserves ample praise, not criticism, for keeping much of this exhibition intact, in spite of severe space constraints, and trying to address the

needs of the exhibiting artists, while also trying to serve the interests of the public at large (after all, Donald O'Finn's painting of the Atlantic Yards as a toilet bowl could be seen as potentially offensive to parents of young children).

I know the BPL exhibition staff, and admire the dedicated work; this latest exhibition is no exception. So I urge those critics of this exhibition to view it, and maybe, they will come away with the same conclusion that it is still a powerful artistic indictment against constructing the Atlantic Yards project.

**John Kwok, Sunset Park**

## Dirty little secret

To the editor,

There is a rush to condemn the present Barclays Bank for its founders having profited, directly or indirectly, from slave-trading ("Blood Money," Feb. 3). Those who do so ought to be aware of the dirty little secret that lies hidden within the history of African slavery in the New World.

The Europeans who brought Africans to the Americas and sold them to plantation owners did not themselves enslave Africans. They bought already enslaved Africans from other Africans. The chain of slave-trading regularly raided other tribes to gain prisoners, who were then enslaved and sold to European slave traders.

This is all described in one of the first slave narratives, "The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African," published in 1789. Equiano was himself eventually set free and some years later made his way back to Africa. Almost the first thing he did when he arrived was buy himself a slave.

**David Hawkins, Park Slope**

## Settle down, Yvette

To the editor,

It's hard to tell who has the greater delusions of grandeur, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke or The Brooklyn Paper ("Congresswoman: End Barclays Deal Now," Feb. 10).

In any case, does any sane person think that in the middle of debates over the war in Iraq and the minimum wage, Congress is going to take time to consider a freshman Congresswoman's contention that because Barclays Bank once had something to do with slavery, Forest City Ratner shouldn't be allowed to build a project in Downtown Brooklyn?

Congresswoman Clarke should concentrate on finding her way around the Capitol while The Brooklyn Paper should go back to reporting on lost cats and sewer projects. Leave the discussion on the Ratner project to mature adults.

**William Tucker, Park Slope**

*Editor's note: Tucker underestimates us. We did, after all, break the Carroll Gardens cat-stuck-in-train-tunnel story.*

## A keen eye

To the editor,

There were two articles in your last issue that proved that we need to be watching our public officials and developers closely.

In your editorial ("Ratner just doesn't get it," Editorial, Feb. 24), Atlantic Yards land-

scape architect Laurie Olin stated that our concerns about Atlantic Yards are so 1960s. Yet, like me, it is odd enough to know that his thinking is so 1950s.

And there wasn't a hell of a lot of good architecture in the 1950s, nor much good planning. The concept of housing projects like the Atlantic Yards were discarded in the 1960s, the 1970s and the 1980s.

Another story, "Goodbye Dolly!" showed that Commissioner Dolly Williams's presence on the City Planning Commission is proof positive that New York City planning process is as corrupt as it can be.

First, Williams can influence the vote on the Atlantic Yards housing project because she has lobbied big money in the Nets, who will play in the housing project's adjoining arena. Now she can exert her influence again after negotiating for the Gowanus Canal area and reop millions.

Mayor Bloomberg's arrogant and dishonest Manhattan-centric government and his imperious Planning Commissioner, Amanda Burden, think that there is nothing corrupt or sleazy about the process.

**Robert W. Ohlerting, Park Slope**

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

## 'What the' headline?

To the editor,

I must complain about the headline you put on the last edition ("What the F," Feb. 24). I mean, it's an insult to people. What are you trying to do? Imagine kids walking into some place and seeing that headline.

The tone of The Brooklyn Paper is getting lower and lower, starting with that picture of the naked actress. We all thought that was as tasteless as you can get, but now you've topped yourself.

You have no idea the resentment people in the Slope have for you.

**Name withheld, Park Slope**

*Editor's note: Funny, but we thought a story about the declining quality of F-train service would show that we're fighting for the people of Park Slope, not against them.*

## Faces of Arabia

To the editor,

Dana Rubinstein's recent story on a soon-to-be-opened Arabic public school ("Borough to get first Arabic P.S.," Feb. 17), seems to be a bit confused (as many people are) about Muslims and Arabs. The story reported how "Muslim community leaders" are hailing the city's decision to open the school.

While it's not surprising that many Muslim people are glad to know about the school, why was there no mention of the many Arab Christians like myself who are just as excited about the new school? Many of us will want to send our children there, and indeed, many of us worked very hard alongside our Muslim neighbors to bring the school to Brooklyn.

Mentioning only Muslim leaders in the article perpetuates the confusion that many people feel about Arabs and Muslims.

Here's a quick primer the subject of Arab versus Muslim:

Arabs can be Muslim, Christian, Jewish and Druze, though many belong to other, smaller sects as well.

Not all Muslims are Arabs, in fact the most populous Muslim country in the world is Indonesia, a non-Arab country.

By the way, the man after whom the school is named, Khalid Gibran, was (like most early Arab-immigrants to this country) a Christian.

**Dave Hall, Boerum Hill**  
*Editor's note: Via, by no means, meant to slight any community, but merely quoted the best available sources on deadline.*

## Siren song

To the editor,

I would like to thank you for covering the current situation regarding the Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Service ("Bensonhurst volunteer ambulance in last-ditch effort to survive," Bay Ridge Edition, Feb. 17).

Thirty years ago, our founder, Eric Towse, saw the need for such a service in our community. Since then, members of this community have provided us with the financial support, and the organization's membership has given its time and talent to make Eric's vision do more than go the way of many other local institutions.

True, some people — a very small number, I am happy to say — question the need for our continuing operation. Despite the great job that city Emergency Medical Services (EMS) members have provided to help each other in time of need, this is why we came into existence, and why we must try to keep the Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Service a vital and active organization well into the future.

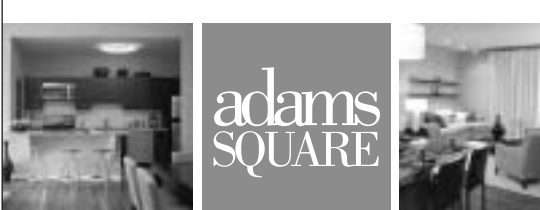
With the continued help and understanding of those who serve, we will permanently fade from view.

**Frank A. Morano, Bensonhurst**

*The writer is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance Service.*

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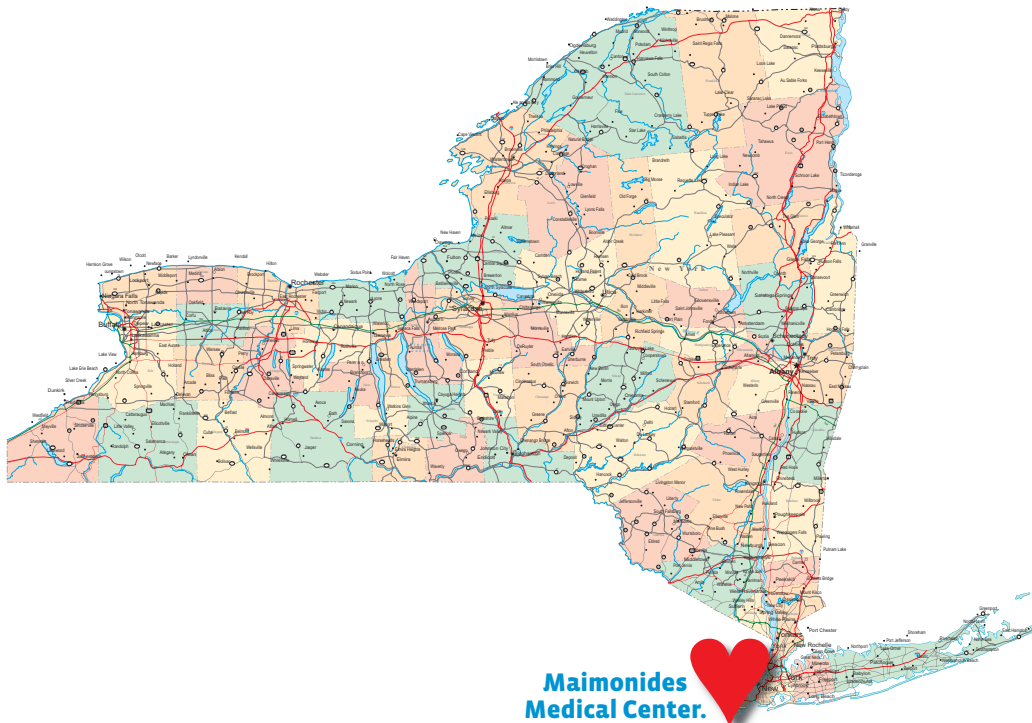
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hensive cardiac centers in the nation, offering invasive and non-invasive, medical and surgical care. We are also a true partnership among referring doctors, cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons, nurses and professional staff, all sharing the singular goal of improved cardiac care for the Maimonides patient.

Which really begs the question: why would anyone go to Manhattan for great cardiac care when you can get it right on one of Brooklyn's major arteries?



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## CHECKIN' IN WITH...

## James Greenberg, the caffeine man

Why stop at that second cup? Or third? A new study from our friends at Brooklyn College makes it clear — well, as clear as scientists can make anything — that drinking four cups of coffee a day can help you stave off heart disease. There are caveats, of course: the study only looked at people over 65, and it was initiated decades ago, when coffee serving sizes were a lot smaller. But who cares? The same Brooklyn College professor who made this latest finding also showed that coffee can cut down on diabetes, so there's never been a better time to have that fourth cup — or to check in with professor James Greenberg, as Gersh Kuntzman did this week.



**Q: I was excited by your study, and not because my heart rate was elevated because I drink a lot of coffee. I was excited because now it seems that all the coffee I'm drinking actually has a positive side.**

**A:** Well, first, I caution you that the study is not conclusive. The role of studies like this is to generate hypotheses for future testing. As a scientist, you never want to just believe one study. You know how scientists are.

**Q: What, coffee addicts?**

**A:** No, I mean that we'll repeat the study many times. No one should change his behavior just yet and start guzzling coffee.

**Q: So how did this study come about?**

**A:** The federal government started collecting data on senior citizens in 1980. They took blood from people and then went back and found the people 10 years later. If the person was dead, they noted the cause of death. So we went back and took this wealth of information and studied whether there was some conclusion we could draw about people who drank a lot of caffeinated beverages. And there it was: People who drank four or more servings of a caffeinated beverage had a 53-

percent lower chance of dying of cardiovascular disease.

**Q: I may not be a scientist, but it sounds like I should drink coffee.**

**A:** It seems like a smart idea. But like I said, it's only one study. It's very preliminary. Someone might do a study that shows some harm.

**Q: This is like how my mother used to tell me to go out and play in the sun. Now she tells me to stay out of the sun. What's with you scientists? Why can't you just get this stuff right in the first place?**

**A:** It's not us. Reality is complicated. We look at it one piece at a time. But there is substantial evidence that there are a lot of good things in coffee. It's very high in antioxidants. In the Nordic countries, people get most of their anti-oxidants from coffee.

**Q: And I thought it was from the reindeer. The good news is that you're putting your mouth where your study money is and still drinking coffee, right?**

**A:** Well, yes, but not so much. Even better than coffee is a mixture of coffee and non-fat cocoa powder. It gives it a fuller, more complex flavor.

God only knows, God makes his plan. The information unavailable to the mortal man. We're working our jobs, collect our pay. Believe we're gliding down the highway, when in fact we're slip slidin' away. Slip slidin' away, slip slidin' away. You know we're near your destination, the more you're slip slidin' away.

— Simon and Garfunkel

**A**CCORDING TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY, it was the tortuous task of Sisyphus to endlessly push a rock up a hill, only to have the boulder slip and slide back down just as the rock neared the summit.

The family and fans of the late Gil Hodges also suffered a Sisyphusian struggle through the years as Hodges' candidacy for the Hall of Fame repeatedly appeared to reach Cooperstown's zenith only to slide back to earth when the votes were tallied.

Such was the result once again on Tuesday when the Veterans Committee of the Baseball Writers Association nixed Hodges's hopes for a Hall pass yet again.

And that's too bad for Hodges, but also for baseball.

In his 18-year career — all with the Dodgers and the Mets — Hodges was an eight-time All-Star, and had seven straight 100 RBI seasons. His 370 homers set a record at the time for the most homers ever by a National League righty.

During the 1950s, only Hall of Famer Duke Snider surpassed him in total homers or RBI.

Hodges was one of the best fielding first basemen of all time, winning three straight Gold Gloves (1957-59) — and he might have won more, but the award wasn't created until 1957, when Hodges was already 35. He had 1,281 assists and 1,614 double-plays as a first baseman, both second all-time when he retired.

But numbers don't tell the entire story about this legend. Hodges was a straight arrow, a gentleman so beloved at Ebbets Field that he reportedly was the only Dodger that the Flatbush faithful never booed. In fact, during his horrific, hitless slump during the 1952 World Series, instead of raspberries and Bronx



cheers, Dodger fans gave Hodges lucky rabbits' feet — and their prayers.

But Hodges is perhaps best remembered for his managerial talents. As a skipper, he led the "miracle" New York Mets to their first World Series win in 1969, and was a highly regarded manager when he passed away, at 47, from a heart attack before the 1972 season.

So, why has he faced only rejection?

For one thing, it's tricky to be voted into the Hall by the Veterans Committee. This year, no one got elected. Hodges got 50 votes, or 12 short of the 75



Brooklyn Dodger Gil Hodges with some friends in Brooklyn in the 1950s.

percent needed to make the Hall.

In 2005, Hodges received 52 votes, just eight votes short. The closest he ever came was in 1993, when he was just one vote shy.

"Gil was an excellent player and a brilliant manager," former Dodger teammate Carl Erskine said in a phone interview on Tuesday. "I've felt all along that he has the credentials to be a Hall-of-Famer."

**G**IVEN THE RULES FOR ELECTION INTO the Hall — "Voting shall be based upon the player's record, playing ability, integrity, sportsmanship, character and contributions to the team(s) on which he played" — it is absurd that Hodges remains on the outside looking in.

Integrity? Would you want your surgeon or fireman to have the integrity of Gil Hodges or of Pete Rose? So if Rose's lack of integrity keeps him out of the Hall, shouldn't Hodges' integrity put him in?

Sportsmanship? Hodges' strength was legendary, yet he never used it to bully smaller players. Instead, he was a peacemaker. He didn't argue with umpires or trash talk opponents.

Character? Hodges fully backed Jackie Robinson from the first, when some teammates didn't. Hodges was a Marine who fought at Okinawa, receiving a Bronze Star.

Contribution to the team(s) on which he played? Robinson, Snider, Campanella, and Reese — the other Dodger position players from the late 1940s to 1957 — are already in the Hall of Fame.

Hodges helped the Dodgers to seven pennants and two World Series wins, the second in Los Angeles. In the prime of his career, he played nearly every game, and led by example.

The next chance for Hodges is in 2009. Meanwhile, the players on the Veterans Committee will get younger, and fewer will remember Hodges' career, further diminishing his chances.

The Hall of Fame voters should attach more weight to the criteria of integrity, sportsmanship, character and contribution to a team.

Before steroid users and possible perjurers reach Cooperstown, let's put Gil Hodges back where he belongs — in the heart of the Dodgers' lineup, the one in Cooperstown.

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## CYCLONES COVERAGE



Cyclones manager Edgar Alfonzo (right) with fans Mark Lazarus (left) and Tom Sealease at a event for season ticket holders last week at KeySpan Park.

## Forzie is back in Brooklyn

By Ed Shakespeare  
For The Brooklyn Paper

"My heart is here in Brooklyn," said Edgar Alfonzo, the once and future manager of the Brooklyn Cyclones, in his return to KeySpan Park last week to meet-and-greet his biggest fans: season-ticketholders who were there when he led the "Clones" to their first and only New York-Penn League championship.

It might have been nearly six years since Alfonzo's boys went 55-25 in the team's inaugural season (and the skipper was honored as Baseball America's Short-Season manager of the year), but he seemed as eager as a rookie as he mingled with all about 70 fans on Wednesday night.

"I am so excited," he said. "I wish the season would start tomorrow."

As the first Cyclones manager to return to the helm, Alfonzo already knows the key to inspiring his team.

"I don't have to motivate players in KeySpan Park," he explained. "At 7 o'clock, they see the ballpark full, and that's all the motivation they need."

The enthusiasm displayed by Alfonzo was also present in the fans, most of whom reminded the skipper that the Staten Island Yankees remain Public Enemy numbers 1-30.

"I'm making a guarantee," said season-ticket holder Gus Eisenstein of Sheepshead Bay, mixing metaphors and mayhem. "This year the Cyclones will take the ball by the horns and throw the Yankees off the Verrazano Bridge."

Alfonzo didn't guarantee a championship, but he promised a championship effort.

"I need to mix development and winning," he said as he twirled his 2001 championship ring and smiled when he was asked how he could improve on his record the first time around.

"Fifty-six and twenty-four," he answered, eyes gleaming.

Bob Benardelli, another season-ticketholder, showed true devotion to the team — and to Alfonzo — by offering to allow the manager to use his original 2001 Cyclones' jersey, No. 7, which Benardelli bought at auction.

Alfonzo, 39, is the older brother of former Met infielder Edgarlo Alfonzo. Edgar's son, also named Edgar, is a pitcher in the Mets' organization and a former Cyclone (2004-2005).

He played 12 minor league seasons, never reaching the majors, although he hit .309, with 25 doubles, 11 homers and 73 RBI for the Orioles' AA team in 1994.

Alfonzo spent the past three seasons as the Mets' Minor League infield coordinator. Prior to that, he was the hitting coach for the Mets' St. Lucie (A) and Binghamton (AA) franchises.

Joining Alfonzo on the Cyclones' staff will be pitching coach Hector Benardelli's fourth season in Brooklyn, and Guadalupe Jabarene, a Cyclones coach last season.

**UPS AND DOWNS**

Legendary Brooklyn Dodger **Don Newcombe** will attend his first professional baseball game in Brooklyn in 50 years when he checks out the action at KeySpan Park on July 22.

He'll throw out the first pitch ("stttt-riiike!") and sign autographs on the stadium's concourse. The first 2,500 fans will receive a Don Newcombe bobblehead doll.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

March 3, 2007

# All that jazz

Bandleader Vince Giordano isn't just playing jazz, he's living it

By John O'Connor  
for The Brooklyn Paper

"I don't always wear a tuxedo," said Vince Giordano, the Brooklyn-born bandleader and jazz purist, as he opened the door to his Midwood home. "But today I felt like dressing up."

With slicked-back hair, a Fred Astaire-baritone and, more often than not, that impeccable tux, Giordano, 55, seems to have stepped right out of the past.

For the past 30 years, Giordano and his 11-piece orchestra, the Nighthawks, have devotedly replicated the sound of 1920s and 30s big-band jazz.

"I love the energy of early jazz," he said. "To me, that was a much more interesting era for music."

Befitting his devotion to America's indigenous musical style, Giordano's home is a time capsule of Depression-era jazz. In the living room are dozens of vintage instruments, including an aluminum stand-up bass, a violin with a horn on it, an immense silver bass sax, a collapsible drum kit, an old Steinway player piano and the only straight-baritone sax in existence.

The walls are covered with jazz posters, more old instruments and photos of jazz greats like Louis Armstrong, Joe Rushon and Henry "Red" Allen. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Stashed throughout the three-story house are 31,000 orchestration and arrangements, 27,000 pieces of old sheet music and 10,000 silent movie scores.

Giordano has been collecting vintage jazz materials for over 30 years and he's running out of room. Faced with the need for additional space, he took the only logical step — he bought the house next door.

"Space, as Captain Kirk said, is the final



Tux and tales: Midwood resident Vince Giordano had to buy the house next door to store all of his unique instruments and jazz memorabilia, including 27,000 pieces of sheet music.

frontier," Giordano cracked to GO Brooklyn this week.

Born in Marine Park and raised on Long Island, Giordano fell in love with big-band jazz as a kid.

"When I was 5-years-old, my grandmother let me listen to this stuff on her old Victrola and I just got inspired. At her house on Dahill Road, everyone would be downstairs

eating, and I'd be upstairs listening to Al Jolson and King Oliver and Paul Whiteman. The emotion that came out of those old phonographs, the vitality of it, that's what turned me on."

After stints on the violin, banjo and guitar, Giordano took up the tuba in the seventh grade and never looked back. Soon, he was studying with legendary arranger Bill Chal-

## NIGHTLIFE

Vince Giordano and The Nighthawks will perform on Mar. 7 at 7:30 and 9:30 pm at Indium Jazz Club (1650 Broadway at 57th Street in Manhattan). \$30. For information, call (212) 582-2121 or visit [www.indiumjazzclub.com](http://www.indiumjazzclub.com).

lis, who had written for Bix Beiderbecke's band. It was the jazz-fusion era of Miles Davis's "Bitches Brew," but Mr. Giordano remained enchanted with the older sound of musicians like Jelly Roll Morton and Fletcher Henderson.

"The musicians of the 1920s and '30s had a certain quality," he said. "They made things boil. There was a movement and tension in their playing that put you on the edge of your seat."

Upstairs, amidst a collection of silent films and 78-rpm records, is the old Victrola that belonged to his grandmother. "It runs just as well today as it did back then," he said. "It's hard to imagine now, but they used to make things to last."

Down a narrow staircase, Giordano led me to the basement, where his vast library of arrangements, orchestrations and scores fills over 100 filing cabinets stacked tightly together.

"This is the morgue," he said. Indeed, it had the feeling of a horror-movie set: dimly lit, claustrophobic and with dark, murky corners. The collection is provisionally open to students or the merely curious, but not without exception.

My competition wants to come over here and Xerox everything," Giordano said. "I have to protect my turf."

He plans to leave all of his memorabilia to the Jazz Institute at Rutgers University.

Giordano has parlayed his musical talent and spot-on jazz look into several small film roles, including "Sweet & Lowdown" and "Cotton Club," and the Nighthawks recorded vintage jazz songs for the soundtrack to Martin Scorsese's, "The Aviator."

It's partly this film work that has led to a growing interest in old jazz, he said. "It allows the music to reach a lot more people. We're getting the word out."

Still, he worries that the music he loves might be an endangered species.

"If we're not careful, this music will evaporate like a puddle on a hot day," he said. "We're out in the strong seas and there are only so many seats on the lifeboat. We need to make the lifeboat bigger."

Giordano plans to start a non-profit nightclub soon in New York that will serve as a music school for kids during the day. "If this music is going to survive, we've got to get the kids interested," he said.

As far as his own survival is concerned, after 30 years in the business, he has no plans to retire. "I'm still excited about playing this music. I haven't burnt out. I'm going to con-

## EVENT

### Hamantouchin'

"Mystically, there is a certain spiritual energy to drinking," Rabbi Simcha Weinstein told GO Brooklyn this week. "Rabbis certainly don't promote it, but Purim is the one day of the year when we do like to pour and pour and pour."



Not everyone has missed the message. On Sunday, Mar. 4, Southpaw will turn its space over to the Chabad of Prospect Heights for its annual Purim party. The bush includes the whole megillah (really, the Megillah will be read), live bands including Matisyahu and, of course, a costume contest.

"While Purim has the flair of Halloween," said Rabbi Ari Kirschenbaum, who hosts the party, "its main ingredient revolves around the holiday's incredible message of deep inner joy."

Inner joy, indeed. The party is reported to spawn more couples than I Date, a claim that Rabbi Kirschenbaum denies though Rabbi Weinstein did not. "Any event where young Jewish guys get to meet young Jewish girls and there's a possibility of romance leading to marriage is wonderful," he said.

Well, anything's possible. Right?

The Chabad of Prospect Heights Purim Party will begin at 3 pm on Mar. 4 at Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope). \$15. For information call (718) 230-0236 or visit [www.speasounds.com](http://www.speasounds.com).

—Adam Rathe

## CINEMA



### Dirty movies

If you're going to see one pig flick this year, make it "Pimps and Prostitutes."

Shohei Imamura's dramedy — about American warships that fill the harbor of a post-war Japanese town — is just one example of the acclaimed director's portraits of the underbelly of Japanese society at BAMcinematek's retrospective, "Pimps, Prostitutes and Pigs: Shohei Imamura's Japan."

The director, who died last year at 80, was lauded for his documentary-like films, which often exploded into a full-blown recreation of the anarchy in modern life. Imamura's films are filled with murderers, thieves, adulteresses and pornographers; underdogs who are given a chance to display their genuine humanity.

"Pimps, Prostitutes and Pigs" isn't only a fantastic title for a film series, it's an eye opener, too.

"Pimps, Prostitutes and Pigs: Shohei Imamura's Japan" will be showing Mar. 3 through Mar. 29 at BAMcinematek (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$10. BAM Cinema Club members, seniors, students and children are \$7. For information call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

—Kevin Filipki

## MUSIC

### Tween spirit

Plenty of musicians go unnoticed until they've been around for decades, if they ever get noticed at all.

The opposite is happening with the Park Slope preens of Care Bears On Fire, who have already made it into Billboard's 2006 Top Ten Critic's Choice List.

That's pretty impressive for a group that was formed in the fourth grade at Berkeley Carroll Elementary School.

The Care Bears, who cite the Sex Pistols and Yo La Tengo as influences, will be bringing their most energetic post-punk time rock to the Liberty Heights Tap Room on Mar. 3. Don't laugh. This is a big deal.

"They bring a big crowd," said the Tap Room's Steve Deputila. "Everybody sets up a concession stand and sells their CDs. These guys had a line that ran for at least 25 minutes and I was on line for 15 to buy them myself. That never happens."

Apparently, the kids are alright. Care Bears on Fire play at 2:45 pm Mar. 3 at the Liberty Heights Tap Room (34 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook). Free. For information

## The high notes

There are jazz clubs all over Brooklyn, but to find the best of the best, we asked Steve Dollar, author of "Jazz Guide NYC," for his favorite spots in the borough.

**Barbes**  
376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 765-9177.  
"It's a good place to drop in on Wednesdays. If you're looking

for variety, it's a great place to go."

**Zebulun**  
253 Wythe Ave. at North Third Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-6934.  
"They have a lot of interesting musicians who play there frequently. It's a great hang out."

**Issue Project Room**  
400 Carroll St. between Bond and Nevins streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 330-0313.  
"It's the kind of place that would have been in the Lower East Side 15 years ago, but no one can pay the rent, so it's in Brooklyn. It's a real fun space, and the stuff they present

there is wide ranging and really unique."

**Tea Lounge**  
837 Union St. between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope, (718) 789-2762.  
"There are a lot of world-class musicians in Brooklyn who play there every week. It's really entertaining, anything from party music to, say, barbershop. It's a kind of funky environment. Not at all a typical jazz club."

**Center for Improvisational Music**  
295 Douglas St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Carroll Gardens, (212) 631-5882.  
"It's run as a jazz school, but they also do shows on Saturdays. When someone's playing in town and doing a bigger venue they might go play a show here, too."

—Rob M. Errera

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## BROOKLYN

### Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week:  
**BENSONHURST**

#### Europa

2007 65th St. at 20th Avenue, (718) 232-7056 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$14.00-\$24.50. Owner Anthony Alamo welcomes you to try Europa's house specialty appetizer, the pepperoni "ripeni" (Italian peppers stuffed with sausage, broccoli rabe, shiitake mushrooms, fresh artichoke hearts, roasted red peppers and mozzarella, in a fresh tomato and basil sauce). Or for a vegetarian option, go for the zucchini fritti, crispy zucchini shoestring. Entrees include 15 different types of pasta such as the "pasta con sarda," lasagna tossed with anchovies, fennel, raisins and pinoli, or second course options like the "agrello a feni" (grilled baby lamb chops with rosemary and garlic sauce served with polenta). Europa also offers over 30 different types of pizzas. Open daily for dinner.

#### Casa Calamari

1801 Bath Ave. at 18th Avenue, (718) 234-7060, www.casacalamari.biz (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa). Entrees: \$8.50-\$14.50.

Since opening its doors in Brooklyn in 1995, Casa Calamari has been known to "satisfy all its patrons," manager John Lahara told GO Brooklyn. Owner Rocco Locociano named three of his 16 specialty brick oven pizzas after his sons: the "Francesco" pie, for example, is topped with shrimp, sautéed arugula and crushed garlic. Or choose any of 15 toppings to customize your own pie. Locociano's menu also features pasta dishes like "ragioni fritto di pomodoro," in which their rigatoni is topped with a fresh tomato sauce made with prosciutto and onion. Then finish your meal with Rosie Varella's homemade tiramisu. On Tuesdays, Casa Calamari has their "shrimp fest": 30 shrimp — fried or scampi style — are prepared to order, served over pasta with soup or salad for only \$15.95. If you prefer lobster, Wednesday is "Crazy Lobster Night," when you can get a one and one-quarter pound lobster prepared steamed, with marinara sauce or stuffed and baked, with soup or salad for \$17.95. On weekdays, a lunch special is offered, with a choice sandwich, soup and salad plus fountain soda for \$6.50. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

#### Columbus Restaurant

6610 18th Ave. at 66th Street, (718) 234-8623. (Cash only) Entrees: \$2.95-\$6.95.

Columbus Restaurant has been an authentic deli since it opened in 1987. When you enter, the aroma of pickles welcomes you and the best thin-sliced turkey club you have ever tasted will keep you coming back for more. The no-frills decor is much improved by having a cheerful, pleasant waitstaff. Columbus specializes in corned beef and pastrami sandwiches, and offers breakfast and lunch at low prices. Open daily until 10 p.m.

#### Il Colosseo

7704 18th Ave. at 77th Street, (718) 234-3663, (MC, V) Entrees: \$7-\$20.50.

While the aroma emanating from the brick oven tucked in the back corner of Il Colosseo will need you in, the selection of brick-oven pizzas will need you coming back for more. From classic Margherita, layered with tomato sauce and mozzarella to the "inferno piccante," a blend of pepperoni, tomato sauce, anchovies, oregano, garlic and a sprinkle of Parmesan cheese, this is heaven for pizza lovers. The "schicciata" is a favorite among customers. The dough is placed in the brick oven so that it rises like a balloon. It is immediately removed from the oven, cut open in the middle, and filled with slices of fresh tomato, anchovies, olives, and cheese and basil. It is then returned to the oven for a few minutes to bake and comes out ready to devour. On top of the plentiful list of brick-oven pizzas, Il Colosseo offers an array of pastas, meat and seafood dishes. Homemade gelato, ricotta cheesecake and tiramisu keep customers' mouths nothing until closing. Open daily until 10 p.m.

#### New Ruon's

1955 86th St. at 19th Avenue, (718) 266-8888 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10-\$20.

Your mother may have told you not to play with

Find more restaurants at  
[www.BrooklynPaper.com](http://www.BrooklynPaper.com)

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express; DC= Diner's Club; Disc= Discover Card; MC= MasterCard; Visa= Visa Card



Shiki Restaurant chefs will grill your food right in front of you.

your food, but at New Ruon's, it's an art form. Don't be surprised if you find a dainty dragon dancing on your plate or delicate bird carvings pecking around your meal. Head chef Bai Ruon is known for his fruit cake, and he and his equally talented in the Chinese culinary arts. His dishes have been leaving his patrons satisfied since 1990, when New Ruon first opened its doors. Among some of his most popular dishes are the roasted duck over lemon and vegetable sauce, and shrimp with walnuts served in a creamy white sauce. If you can't settle on one dish, Manager Donald Ruon recommends the "happy family," a combination platter of shrimp, scallops, chicken and roasted pork, served with Chinese vegetables in a brown sauce, and accompanied by soup and dessert for just \$15. With the exception of Thanksgiving, they are open daily until 11 p.m., and until midnight on weekends.

#### Not Just Chicken

1687 86th St. at 17th Avenue, (718) 259-1111 (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5.99-\$36.49.

"Original Tasty Buckets" contain up to 20 chicken pieces, and family meal deals are available, too. On the side, by the fresh buttermilk biscuits, cheddar-filled jalapeno poppers, sautéed spinach and garlic, or sweet potato fries. Entrees also include burgers, wraps, ribs, specialty sandwiches and stuffed baked potatoes. For dessert, try the fried Twinkie. Open daily for lunch and dinner. Owner Dominick LaRuffa also has a second location at 6422 Avenue U at 66th Street, (718) 629-9000.

#### Shiki Restaurant

1863 86th St. at 18th Avenue, (718) 837-1586, (AmEx, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$8.95-\$26.95.

At Shiki, which opened in 2000, customers have choices from private rooms to traditional Japanese-style tables to Hibachi-style dining. While a sculptured rock waterfall bubbles in the center of the main dining room and Japanese music plays quietly in the background, customers relax. The most popular experience is Hibachi-style dining. There, the waiting party sits around a large grill and enjoys the entertainment Shiki chefs offer while preparing chicken, steak, vegetables and more. While the grill sizzles, the chefs chop, toss and sauté your entire meal right before your eyes. Shiki has three chefs so that no customer is ever left waiting long. Shiki also offers fresh sushi and house specials, such as the "fancy eel" roll, rice topped with a large piece of "unagi," eel cooked in savory brown sauce. The most popular dessert, says head waitress Serena, is the fried ice cream: a choice of green tea, vanilla, chocolate or red bean ice cream, deep fried in tempura batter and crowned with whipped cream and a cherry. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

#### Tasty Pasta & Pizza

1709 86th St. at Bay 16th Street, (718) 331-7100, (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.95-\$19.99.

At Tasty Pasta and Pizza, which opened in May 2001, appetizers include steamed mussels, grilled octopus and cold antipasto soppressata, fresh mozzarella, olives, roasted peppers, imported anchovies and mushrooms. For an entree, try one of the traditional brick-oven pizzas or hot sandwiches. Or go for the lobster ravioli with pink cream sauce and baby shrimp, or the creamy clam pasta (minced clams sautéed in a medley of chopped onions, garlic, fresh basil, parsley, grated cheese, cream and a touch of white wine over your choice of pasta). Owners Vincent and Joseph Garaldi also offer party trays. Open Tuesday through Sunday for lunch and dinner. Closed Mondays.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to [www.brooklynpaper.com](http://www.brooklynpaper.com) on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at [Curtis@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:Curtis@brooklynpaper.com).

# Flatbush farm

## Upscale — but down home — cooking hits Park Slope

By Tina Barry  
For The Brooklyn Paper

There is no farm on Flatbush Avenue," said the man when I called for a cab. In a way, he was correct. Flatbush Farm, an eatery and bar in Park Slope, is as much a farm as Disney Land is a cultural center. Sure, it has the organic produce and a couple of tools hanging over the bar. But a farm? No way. Not when the waitstaff is this city chic and the interior this quirky. The food is rustic, but farm grub it is not.

I knew the name was meant to be cheeky the moment I entered. The restaurant section of the property (there's also a bar — or "barn") — with a separate entrance) is ringed with black wainscoting. The floor is black, too, and quirky odds and ends that look as if they were culled from the home of an eccentric uncle are arranged artfully over the black bar.

And no farm girl ever looked like the soft-spoken, striking manager Melissa Kallisen, either. That is, unless long braids have been traded for bald heads. Melissa's scalp is tattooed with a gorgeous, swirling monogram-glorious vine.

In July, owner Damon Gorton revamped the food for Bistrot Saint Marks,

None of the fare is particularly light, which is fine for appetizers and entrees. But heavy desserts brought a thud to the end of my meal on my first visit (a layered crepe affair in particular tasted like it was iced with mud). My second dinner at Flatbush Farm though, includ-



ed delightful finales.

The goat cheese panna cotta has evolved from an overly tart pudding badly matched with a crown of sour cranberries. Twice proved to be the charm for the dessert. Its acidity was mellowed and tender raspberries added the necessary sweetness. Rum and segments of orange cut the richness of a slice of pleasantly bitter chocolate terrine while pistachio nuts added a bit of crunch. A spicy, warm walnut cake was lightened with a scoop of tangy whipped cream fraiche.

There's a dish on the "Start it" section of the menu that defines the casual yet sophisticated cuisine here. Take a bite of the lush, pan-fried chicken livers and your teeth pass through a crusty, well-sautéed exterior into a juicy, soufflé-like center. The saline quality is set off by salvages of sweet, silky, slow-roasted onions. A bit of frisee in creamy mustard dressing pierces the liver's richness.

Slices of warm braised tuna belly paired with tart pickled onions, arugula and slow-cooked navy beans in a sprightly dressing. The slight acidity



Farm fresh: Flatbush Farm's bar (inset) whips up drinks like the "Mo' Stormy," a bracing blend of ginger and rum (above).

of the sides added just enough oomph to the mild, beefy taste of the fish.

Slow roasting deepened the flavor of a rich buttermilk squash soup. Small chunks of the vegetable, its edges caramelized and its interior buttery, added textural interest.

I'd skip the limp spatzle with mushrooms in a blab broth, for a couple of the sublimely fresh raw oysters. They're served icy cold and perfect as is, but a bit of cocktail sauce with just a hint of horseradish didn't hurt.

After tasting the pappardelle with stringy, flavorless wild hare ragout, I surmised that pasta isn't the chef's forte. He has a way with poultry, though, such as his "duck choucroute." A large leg of the house-smoked game sits over tart sauerkraut that serves as a foil for the lush, fall-off-the-bone meat. Slices of moist breast with a brittle coating of skin possess the same deep, dark-meat intensity as the leg.

As succulent as the bird is, it's nearly upstaged by chunks of potato

sautéed, then deep-fried, in duck fat. You'll need several miles on the treadmill after downing this one, but it's worth every atery-sloggy bite. Half a chicken cooked in a cast-iron skillet is crisp-skinned and moist. Creamy grits that accompany the bird needed salt, but spicy collard greens go a long way to brighten the dish. I have two small complaints about Flatbush Farm: On a Sunday evening when the restaurant was busy, the wait between the appetizers and the entrees dragged. I assume that will be resolved as Browning settles into the kitchen.

And there are the glasses. I don't care how "down home" a restaurant is, wine gets demeaned a notch when it's poured into a tumbler. You can ask for an appropriate glass if you don't find this serving style charming.

When the cab driver noticed the huge red fluorescent Flatbush Farm sign he snickered. "A farm?" he said. "Right," I replied. "And we're a couple of ranch hands."

## Over the Hill

The Hill Diner in Cobble Hill has closed. In its place is Miriam, a spin-off of Refael Hasid's eatery of the same name in Park Slope. The new Miriam, named for Hasid's mother, is larger, and, he told GO Brooklyn, "even more beautiful than the first." In a major makeover, Hasid installed a mahogany and copper bar lit with exotic Moroccan lamps, set in an intricate limestone and wood floor and added shimmering blue and green mosaics. While the setting has changed, the Middle Eastern menu — with a twist — stays the same.

"We're continuing to tell our story," Miriam said. "There's just more of it now."

From the dinner menu, braised short ribs crusted with fennel seeds and panko are served with sautéed Brussels sprouts and a raisin noodle kugel. New additions to the menu include the popular "Israeli breakfast" (fabulous, chewy pita bread, a yogurt cheese called "labneh," a chopped salad and two eggs prepared as you like them, pictured) as well as other

morning and lunch items.

Another thing that one-ups the original Miriam: a full liquor license with sexy cocktails like the "Anak" martini, a potent mix of dry vermouth, "arak" (a spirit distilled from fermented coconut palm sap or a rice and molasses mash) and green olives.

You'd think that with all morn contributed to the restaurant, Hasid would leave her alone. But, no. "She came all the way from Israel to sew curtains and cushions for the new place," he said fondly.

That's some mother. Miriam (229 Court St. between Baltic and Warren streets in Cobble Hill) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$15-\$19. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Brunch is available on weekends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Subway: F to Bergen Street. [www.miriamrestaurant.com](http://www.miriamrestaurant.com). For information call (718) 522-2220.

— Tina Barry

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# The new classic

Composer Nico Muhly's rising star brightens an evening with the Brooklyn Philharmonic

By Joe Pompeo  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Nico Muhly is very busy. Whether he's working on original compositions, traveling abroad to meet with his publishers, recording in Iceland, or doing film score mock-ups for Philip Glass, the young composer always seems to have his hand in more than one project at a time.

"If you're not teaching or getting a Ph.D., you have to keep busy somehow," he said by phone from London last week, one night before England's Opera North was to perform one of his collaborations with chamber pop sensation Antony and the Johnsons. "This is very much the life I'd like to be living."

At 26, less than three years out of graduate school, Muhly has already racked up some lofty accomplishments. Aside from working extensively with Antony and Philip Glass, he's composed for and recorded with Björk, played or conducted at venues from Carnegie Hall to the Arnhem Mode Biennale in Holland and had his ensemble works performed worldwide; not to mention orchestrating blockbuster hit "The Manchurian Candidate" for composer Rachel Portman.

Now he joins the Brooklyn Philharmonic for the second concert in its new "BP Presents" series, in which Antony and the Johnsons and the Philharmonic, with Music Director Michael Christie, will perform their recent collaborations with Muhly.

The new songs are "not like your typical jeans and t-shirt ensemble — you know how it works and how it relates to the body," Muhly said. "Rather, they're more like costumes: there's a sense of something subtle and also something spectacular."

"BP Presents" showcases less-conventional performances than the Philharmonic's traditional concert fare. The debut performance in the series, for example, featured contemporary female vocalists including Joan Osborne and Laurie Anderson. A concert with Muhly and Antony offers a similarly eclectic blend of the classical and the mod-



Maintaining composer: Nico Muhly, only 26, has already worked with everyone from Philip Glass to Björk.

ern, according to Adam Teeter, spokesman for the Philharmonic.

"Working with Nico was Antony's idea," said Teeter. "We're thrilled that it happened. Nico is one of the next great composers. He is so well regarded in New York, and it's thrilling to say that [he's involved]."

Of course, the road to acclaim for

Muhly was a long one. Born in Vermont in 1981 and raised in Providence, R.I., it wasn't until the age of 13 that he started playing piano, which as far as young composers go, he explained, is a pretty late start.

He admits he was "kind of lousy" at first, but his interest in composition accelerated throughout his teenage years,

## MUSIC

"BP Presents Antony and the Johnsons" will take place at 8 pm at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. at Astor Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$55 to \$105. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.brooklynphilharmonic.org](http://www.brooklynphilharmonic.org).

which he largely spent scouring the library for musical scores as well as writing and arranging his own.

Once at college, he enrolled in a joint English literature and music curriculum at Columbia University and the Juilliard School, from which he graduated in 2003. In 2004, he received his Masters in Music from Juilliard.

"Growing up I was just sort of voraciously grabbing at whatever I could find [related to composition]," he said. "So when I finally got to school, I realized my musical education up to that point had been pretty odd. I was desperate for structure and I really wanted my ass kicked. I was kind of lost at sea before that."

Now, Muhly finds himself a part of a community of musicians, his age and younger, who have classical backgrounds, but whose interests and tastes when it comes to composition are wide-reaching. It reflects an intersection between contemporary pop and classical music that, for Muhly, is not two worlds colliding but a sign of individuals writing music that's true to their own experiences.

"Our generation of composers doesn't see a distinction between the music we listen to: between classical and something traditionally popular, even though we don't like those terms," composer Judd Greenstein, a friend of Muhly's, said this week. Adding of Muhly, "I think Nico's music is really special because he manages to integrate the wide variety of music that he appreciates, from ancient music to contemporary music to all kinds of rock music and other non-classical styles, into a voice that is really personal and unique. He actually synthesizes all of his listening experience into something that sounds unlike anything else."

In the meantime, you might find among the many things on Muhly's extensive "To Do" list one of the more enjoyable, yet equally vital tasks associated with being a young composer: networking.

"To me, one of the big things about living and studying in New York is that you learn how to talk to people; having a social life, doing the diplomatic extramusical things," he said. "Living by your own hand in music, it's important to just kind of be around."

## Don't fear the Riesling!

By Darrin Siegfried

If ever there was a misunderstood grape, it is Riesling. Whenever I get together with winemakers, chefs and sommeliers, it seems that we always start off with a bottle of Riesling, but most of the American public shies away from wines made from this venerable, ancient grape. Let's take a look and try to find out why.

Like many other Americans, my first experiences with Rieslings (pronounced REE sling) were anything but noble. College students have always had little money to spend on drink, so inexpensive, simple, sweet German Rieslings like Zellerschwarzenkatz, Blue Nun, Black Tower and Liebfraumilch were what we bought. They were enjoyable in that they contained alcohol, seemed more sophisticated than offering your date a beer, and they were fine for a young, inexperienced palate. We drank them and we enjoyed them, and I make no excuses for that. I am very glad, though, that most of the Rieslings made are quite unlike those of my youth.

Most people have a sweet tooth. We are born with a taste for sweetness, and eating foods when they were ripe (and sweet) was necessary for our early ancestors' survival. We Americans have a notorious appetite for sweets, but seem to hate the idea of our wine having even the slightest trace of sugar. (This natural sugar, from the grape, is left over from the fermentation process and is called residual sugar.) We drink soft drinks with the equivalent of twelve spoonfuls of sugar per can, but run from a touch of natural sweetness in our wine, and we miss out on so much. Think about it: have you enjoyed a soda with a slice of pizza, or a shake with a burger? Lots more sugar there than in almost any Riesling. The slightly sweet "off-dry" Rieslings go very well with food, and once you give them a try I think you'll agree.

Riesling was brought up the Rhine

River by the conquering Romans, replacing the native grapes found growing there. It was able to flourish in cool climates with a small amount of rainfall and early frosts. Riesling remains the most important grape for winemaking in Germany to this day, and so much of German cuisine pairs so beautifully with Riesling that Germans drink more wine per capita than do the French! Riesling spread west to Alsace, on the French side of the Rhine, where it, also, is the dominant grape, making a delicious match with the regional dishes, such as Charcuterie and Quenelles of Pike.

"Serious" German Rieslings, often the dry ones, usually have labels that are difficult to understand. You really have to know a lot about German wines to decipher the labels, and the information, while plentiful, can often confuse novices. The old Gothic typefaces used in printing them didn't help much, either. Tradition ruled the day and, happily, that day is passing. Willie Gluckstein, one of my favorite importers, uses his own eye-catching labels and, on the back labels, tells us the level of residual sugar and of acidity. Talk about truth in labeling! Some day everyone may follow Willie's common sense lead.

Wine lovers should know that Riesling is the most versatile of all grapes, capable of making the driest, most delicate of wines, the richest, most dense, sweet-as-honey dessert wines, and almost anything in between, either still or sparkling. I believe that Rieslings are perhaps the most food-friendly wines, in that they complement so many foods, and they do not compete with their flavors. Rieslings, surprisingly, are also a perfect match with many dishes that we usually associate with red wine! Delicious and refreshing, low in alcohol, an occasional touch of sweetness, an aromatic fruitiness paired with crisp acidity: who could ask for more in a wine?



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## Sound travels

How do you get from Argentina to Austria via Brooklyn? On Mar. 10 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, you can take a "Bridge."

"Bridge to the Beyond," the Brooklyn Philharmonic's second program of its 2007 season, explores mysticism in music through works by two composers: Austrian Gustav Mahler and Argentine Osvaldo Golijov, featuring a solo by clarinetist David Krakauer (inset).

The concert will begin with two works by Golijov, classical music's current "it boy" (he'll be Mostly Mozart's first composer-in-residence for their summer festival). Following Golijov's work, an hour-long Mahler piece will close the show.

"We were part of the commissioning consortium who asked Osvaldo to expand 'Isaac' for a larger string ensemble, so we've been anxiously awaiting the chance to play it," the orchestra's Music Director Michael Christie (pic-

tured at left) told GO Brooklyn. "With the massive surge in interest in Osvaldo, we thought putting these two works together would make a good musical picture of him."

Christie said he was loved the idea of pairing the Golijov works with the Mahler symphony — the first of nine completed symphonies, all running between 50 and 90 minutes and expressing Mahler's belief that each symphony should "contain the world." And if you're interested in a trip around the globe without leaving your seat, it will appeal to you as well.

The Brooklyn Philharmonic performs "Bridge to the Beyond" on Mar. 10 at 8 pm at the BAM's Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene); tickets are \$20 to \$60, \$10 for students. For information call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.brooklynphilharmonic.org](http://www.brooklynphilharmonic.org).

— Kevin Filipksi



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## PIZZA...

Continued from page 1

His Italian eatery, Cucina, was one of the first fine-dining establishments to open along Fifth Avenue in Park Slope.

"Cucina was the first [Brooklyn] restaurant, besides the River Cafe, to be reviewed by the New York Times," said Ayoub. "And the River Cafe was never really considered a Brooklyn restaurant anyway."

Cucina was awarded two stars by Brian Miller, then the Times food critic, a huge feat for an other-borough restaurant at the time.

In 2002, however, Ayoub decided that 18-hour days in the kitchen were no longer for him. "I got to feel like I was missing some things," he said. "My family and my kids to name a few."

He sold his restaurants and decided to narrow his focus to one dish: pizza.

"Trying to create a restaurant with just one product is very difficult," said Ayoub. "I'm classically trained in French and Italian. I do sushi — I had to do something that was worthy of my reputation."

The following year, Ayoub took a lease on the old L. Cafe space and opened Fornino. He purposefully chose Williams-

## The simple slice

Yes, we love gourmet pizza from Fornino and DiFara, too. But when we're looking for down and dirty slices, here is where we go:

**Front Street Pizza** (80 Front St. at Washington Street in DUMBO) for the Buffalo Chicken slice. Yes, it sounds crazy, but believe it or not, this blue-cheese-dressing, hot sauce and chicken slice works. (718) 875-3700.

**Pino's La Forchetta** (181 Seventh Ave. between First and Second streets in Park Slope) for the fresh mozzarella slice. Because it's such a neighborhood favorite, you're almost always guaranteed a fresh pie. (718) 965-4020.

**House of Pizza and Calzone** (132 Union St. between Columbia and Hicks streets in Carroll Gardens) for the calzone, and yes, there's simply no better calzone in the borough. The secret is the deep-frying. (718) 624-9107.

**Totono's** (1524 Neptune Ave. between W. 15th and W. 16th streets in Coney Island) for the coal-oven pies. Some would call it gourmet, but this is what every neighborhood pizzeria was like 70 years ago: fresh mozzarella, a magically charred crust, a real sauce. Perfection. (718) 372-8606.

**Nino's** (531 Henry St. at Union Street in Cobble Hill) for the regular slice. Don't believe us, believe the cops from the 76th Precinct around the corner. (718) 834-0863.

**Papa's** (8312 Fifth Ave. in Bay Ridge) for the margherita slice. The best margherita slice in town resides here, made with great-tasting fresh plum tomatoes, basil, olive oil, mozzarella and Papa's own special spices. So delicious, your taste buds will melt with the cheese. (718) 630-5593.

burg because he saw a niche that needed to be filled.

"My demographic was here: a young hip crowd with a few bucks in their pockets," said Ayoub.

"There were restaurants around here that were packed and there was no pizza."

The formula was a success. From the herbs grown near the back of the restaurant to the hand-blown glass above the brick oven, everything about Fornino is obviously high quality. The pies include a classic margherita; a \$50 pie with black truffles; and the "Al Roker," named for the weatherman who first ordered it, piled with fontina cheese, caramelized onions, sopressata, roasted red peppers and rosemary.

Adam Kuban, founder and editor of the popular pizza blog Slice-NY, told GO Brooklyn, "The reason I really like Fornino is that [Ayoub] goes the extra mile with the cheese and herbs. He's really putting a lot of effort and love into making the pizza."

Late last year, Cronkite opened on the Lower East Side's Norfolk Street, bringing Ayoub's pizza to Manhattan for the first time. He hasn't abandoned Brooklyn, however, and is hoping to open more restaurants soon. Right now, he has his sights on a spot in Down-

town Brooklyn.

That sound you just heard is the neighborhood's collective stomach grumbling in anticipation.

Additionally, he runs a company called Student Food, which operates the dining facilities for Xavier High School in Bay Ridge, where he was a student. They provide the school's 1,500 students with meals, including lots of grilled chicken, sushi and, yes, pizza.

## DINING

**Fornino** (187 Bedford Ave. between North Sixth and North Seventh streets in Williamsburg) is open Sunday through Thursday from noon until 11 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from noon until midnight. For information, call (718) 384-6004.

"It's not your typical high school cafeteria food," said school President Salvatore Ferreira, who added that he's a fan of the margherita pizza. "Whether it's pasta or a Chinese dish, many of his creations are really very appetizing and very healthy."

Indeed, whether he's firing pies for hungry hipsters or taking on the Herculean task of feeding over a thousand teenagers, Ayoub's always got high quality and tremendous taste on his mind. "[The pizzas] are like my children," he said. "I love them all."

# mom dot com

## Postpartum expression hits Brooklyn blogs

By Louise Crawford

The Brooklyn Paper

Having a kid changes everything. Sure, people have been doing it for eons, but when it happens to you, it's like it's happening for the very first time.

And when it happens to you — and you live in Brooklyn — everybody needs to hear about it.

While most new parents are content to capture every moment of junior's life on film or video, in Brooklyn, there are almost as many writers as there are Bugaboys — but book contracts don't grow on trees, so many moms are discussing their children, marriages and lives on their own blogs.

With hundreds of mommy Web logs in Brooklyn alone, you have to wonder how healthy it is for parents to tell all on the Internet. How will it be for the kids when they discover that mom's been sharing their secrets with the world?

Then again, given that we live in a media-driven world, they probably won't care.

"That's where we are right now with everything," observed Judy Antell, an editor at Brooklyn Parent. "The whole celebrity culture we have now, where you know everything about everyone, has moved on to parents."

Mary MacRae Warren is a single mother who lives with her 9-year-old son in a cluttered East New York apartment from which she has run the blog, "Mrs. Cleavage's Diary," since January.

A self-described smart-pants, the saucy and opinionated former Park Sloper Warren uses the blog as a creative outlet, as well as a way to deal with the highs and lows of parenting.

Like many bloggers, Warren likes to live her life out loud. "My family was always appalled at how open I was about everything," said Warren. "My parents argued all the time and I was the blabbermouth who told the whole neighborhood."

She still loves to have an audience. And telling stories is a way to get in touch with how she is feeling.

"In a way, the blog is a homage to my mom," Warren said this week over coffee in Park Slope. "It's a way to sort



out what it means to be a parent."

Warren, a tall, busty blonde with a penchant for colorful clothes and bright red lipstick, grew up in North Carolina with a mother who stayed at home. "She was an artist and a really creative person, but she was stifled by her kids."

Still, she managed to be quite a multi-tasker. "She gardened, she cooked, she painted, she made cupcakes," Warren recalled. "It was like I had Mrs. Cleavage to live up to, which is a high standard to meet as a parent."

After her divorce in 2005, Warren started her blog as a way to kick and scream about her life as a sole breadwinner and parent — a far cry from the model she grew up with.

"I don't pretend to be super-mommy," she said. "I let it all hang out: the

has created an online persona who explores the inter-faith, inter-ethnic identity of her family, and does so with humor and verve.

Not all blogs, however, are light-hearted, some deal with challenging aspects of parenting. For example, Special Focus, a blog written anonymously by a Brooklyn mom, chronicles the life of the writer, her twelve-year-old daughter who has Asperger's Syndrome and ADHD and her son who has central auditory processing difficulties and, like his sister, distraction and focus issues. Special Focus takes the reader on a journey through the maze of special education and medication, as well as the ups and downs of family life with special needs children.

"As with most kids with special needs, my child's constellation of idiosyncrasies fall sloppily inside and outside of all the boxes of possible diagnoses," she wrote.

And it's not just moms turning to their keyboard for a little relief.

The Blog Fathers, a group site of some of the best dad bloggers around, including Laid Off Dad, Adventure Dad, Because I'm Your Father and Mr. Nice Guy, provides a compelling, funny and uncensored look into life as a modern dad.

Brooklyn's Mr. Nice Guy has been blogging since he found out that his wife was having morning sickness and, even though now his daughter is nearly three, he's still going. His funny, snarky posts cover everything from kiddie bathroom habits to caregivers, the Brooklyn Target and beyond.

With interest in blogging, and the popularity of "mom lit" books, on the rise, Families First, a parent-run, non-profit organization in Carroll Gardens has started offering a class called "Memoirs for Moms." Teaching local ladies how to start writing their own stories of motherhood, instructor Mary Harmon, helps mothers reach more deeply into "the day-to-day joys and emotional turning points of motherhood," according to the course description.

Harmon's writing exercises are designed to stimulate self-discovery, helping students create a "meaningful" snapshot of motherhood.

While meaningful sounds nice, it's clear that plenty of moms are finding their own meaning in blowing off steam for a community of concurring readers.

Though sometimes it seems that the blogging can go too far. As Mrs. Cleavage wrote on a recent post: "I took the kids ice skating one afternoon and filled page after page of my journal with my cramped scrawl. The children were blessedly occupied, and I was also."

She blogged about how she keeps a journal? If that isn't meta, what is?

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Remember to observe the **4 Mitzvahs** of Purim: **1.** Hear the Megilla. **2.** Give charity to 2 people or organizations. **3.** Eat a festive meal. **4.** Send ready to eat foods to another person.

For information or assistance in fulfilling the above in the Brownstone Brooklyn area, contact Rabbi Shimon Hecht, (718) 965-9836, or email [ChabadPS@aol.com](mailto:ChabadPS@aol.com)

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# BROOKLYN Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara F. Cowan

## BAY RIDGE

### Kitty Kiernan's

9715 Third Ave. at 97th Street in Bay Ridge,  
(718) 921-0217, www.kittykiernans.com  
Mar. 3: Brian G. and Xavier, 11 pm, FREE;  
Mar. 10: Sean Coaght, 11 pm, FREE.

### The Salty Dog

7359 Third Ave. at 73rd Street in Bay Ridge,  
(718) 238-9260, www.saltydogbar.com  
Wednesday: Karaoke Night, 9 pm, FREE.

### The Wicked Monk

6415 Fifth Ave. at 64th Street in Bay Ridge,  
(718) 921-0401, www.wickedmonk.com  
Mar. 3: DJ Ties, Smash, Mandi Gora Party, 9 pm, \$5; Mar. 4: The Jerry Farley Showcase, 9 pm, \$5; Mar. 8: Atomic Dog Unplugged, 9 pm, \$5; Mar. 9: DJ Eric Dirty Jersey, 9 pm, \$5; Mar. 10: DJ Pope, Big Sig, 9 pm, \$5.

## BEDFORD-THUYSENT

### Food 4 Stoves

445 Marcus Avenue Blvd. at MacDonough  
Street in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 464-1460  
Saturdays: Open Mic, 9 pm, \$6; Mondays:  
Fado to Black Mondays a.k.a. Movie Night, 8 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Game Night, 7 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Jazz Night, 8 pm, FREE.

### Sistas' Place

426 Keston Ave. at Jefferson Avenue in  
Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 499-1766,  
www.sistasplace.com  
Mar. 3: Celebrating Nina Simone with live  
music, 9 pm, \$10, \$25 in advance, \$30 day of the show; Mar. 10: Celebrating Horacio  
Tobman with live music, 9 pm, 10:30 pm, \$25  
in advance, \$30 day of the show.

### Solomon's Porch

307 Stuyvesant Ave. at Keston Street in  
Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 919-8001  
Tuesdays: Open mic, 8 pm, \$7.

## BOERUM HILL

### Hank's Saloon

48 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum  
Hill, (718) 625-8002, www.hanksaloon.com  
Sundays: Sean Karshaw and The New Jack  
Ramblers, 10 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Mo-  
sunday, 10 pm, FREE; Mar. 5: Live band funk  
karaoke, 10 pm, FREE; Mar. 9: Fourteen  
Feet, Banjo Jack, 10 pm, FREE; Mar. 10: The  
Barnes, 10 pm, Guitar Bomb, 11 pm, Mad  
Cow, Midnight, FREE.

## BRIGHTON BEACH

### National Restaurant

271 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton  
Second Street in Brighton Beach, (718)  
646-1225, www.com3national.com  
Saturdays: Live Russian music and dance  
show, 9 pm, FREE (with \$40 pay fee dinner);  
Sundays: Live Russian music and dance show,  
9 pm, FREE (with \$50 pay fee dinner).

## BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

### Magnetic Field

97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street in  
Brooklyn Heights, (718) 534-0005

## CLINTON HILL

### Dakar Cafe

285 Street Avenue in Clinton Hill,  
(718) 398-8900, www.granddakar.com  
Sundays: DJ Contra Sound, 8 pm, FREE;  
Tuesdays: Soggy Day, 8 pm, FREE; Fridays:  
Live band, 10 pm, FREE.

### Reign

46 Washington Ave. at Flushing Avenue in  
Clinton Hill, (718) 442-7344,  
www.reignnyc.com  
Saturdays: "Your Space Saturdays" with DJ  
Hill, 11 pm, FREE before 12:30 am, \$20 after  
12:30 am.

### Sputnik

262 Tenth St. at DeKalb Avenue in Clinton  
Hill, (718) 398-6666, www.sputnik.com  
Saturdays: Afrobeat with DJ Chris Annell  
and Amos, 9 pm, \$15 after 10:30 pm; Tues-  
days: Karaoke Night, 8 pm, FREE; Fridays:  
Sexy Progressive Dance party, 10 pm, FREE;  
before 10:30 pm, \$15 after 10:30 pm; Mar.  
3: Leftover Crack with Citizen Fish, Witch  
Hunt, 3 pm, \$12; Mar. 5: Castanets with  
Shapes and Sizes, Papi Ginsberg, Soft  
People, 8 pm, \$8; Mar. 6: Red Sparrows with  
Dyrlhythms, Monks, 9 pm, \$10; Mar. 7:  
Growing with Telepathe, Katie Eastburn, 7  
pm, \$8; Mar. 8: Vol Majesty with Gang, 8 pm,  
\$5; Mar. 10: Emergency Party featuring  
Brian Boro, 7 pm, \$8.

## FLATBUSH

### Cornerstone Pub

1502 Corlies Ave. at MacDonough Road in  
Flatbush, (718) 960-9027, www.corner-  
stonepub.com  
Saturdays: Alga & Friends, 9 pm, FREE  
(donation suggested); Tuesdays: Dan Pratt  
Quartet, 9 pm, FREE (donation suggested);  
Thursdays: Stephanie Winemil, 6:30 pm, FREE.

### Vox Pop

1022 Corlies Ave. at Stratford Road in Flat-  
bush, (718) 940-2084, www.voxpop.net  
Sundays: Open mic, 7 pm, FREE with 2-  
drink drink minimum.

## FORT GREENE

### BAM Cafe

(At the Brooklyn Academy of Music) 30  
Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort  
Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org  
Mar. 3: Shempers presents "The Hip-Hop  
Ballet Party" 9 pm, FREE; Mar. 9: Balu,  
10 pm, FREE; Mar. 10: ASEA, 10 pm, FREE.

### Night of the Cookers

767 Fulton St. at South Portland Avenue in  
Fort Greene, (718) 797-1197  
Saturdays: Live jazz, 10 pm, FREE; Thursdays:  
Live jazz, 8 pm, FREE; Fridays: Live jazz, 10  
pm, FREE.

## GREENWOOD HEIGHTS

### Kitchen Bar

667 Sixth Ave. at 20th Street in Park Slope,  
(718) 499-5623, www.kitchenbar.com  
Thursdays: Live music, 8:30 pm, FREE.

### Living Room Lounge

245 23rd St. at Carroll Street in Park Slope,  
(718) 499-1505  
Saturdays: DJ Kit, 10 pm, FREE; Sundays:



Strung up: With banjo, bass and two kazos, the Two Man Gentleman Band celebrates the release of its new CD, "Great Calamities," at Barbies on Mar. 9.

Saturdays: VIP Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE  
before 10:30 pm, \$15 after 10:30 pm; Tues-  
days: Karaoke Night, 8 pm, FREE; Fridays:  
Sexy Progressive Dance party, 10 pm, FREE;  
before 10:30 pm, \$15 after 10:30 pm; Mar.  
3: Leftover Crack with Citizen Fish, Witch  
Hunt, 3 pm, \$12; Mar. 5: Castanets with  
Shapes and Sizes, Papi Ginsberg, Soft  
People, 8 pm, \$8; Mar. 6: Red Sparrows with  
Dyrlhythms, Monks, 9 pm, \$10; Mar. 7:  
Growing with Telepathe, Katie Eastburn, 7  
pm, \$8; Mar. 8: Vol Majesty with Gang, 8 pm,  
\$5; Mar. 10: Emergency Party featuring  
Brian Boro, 7 pm, \$8.

## PARK SLOPE

### Bar 4

444 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park  
Slope, (718) 632-9000  
Mar. 4: Special Needs, 7 pm, \$5 suggested  
donation, \$10; Fridays, \$5 suggested dona-  
tion.

### Barbes

376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope,  
(718) 965-9177, www.barbesbrooklyn.com  
Sundays: Stephanie Winemil, 9 pm, \$10 sug-  
gested donation; Tuesdays: Jenny Schein-  
man, 7 pm, \$10 suggested donation; Sat-  
Soul Party, 9 pm, \$10; Mar. 3: The Two Man  
Gentleman Band CD release party for Great  
Calamities, 8 pm, \$10 suggested donation;  
Luminant! Orchestra, 10 pm, \$10 sug-  
gested donation; Mar. 9: Andy Starmas, 8 pm,  
\$10, One Ring Zero, 10 pm, \$10 suggested  
donation.

### Uncle Paulie's

408 Greenwood Ave. at Grandparents  
Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-2411,  
Mar. 9: "Bikes in the Kitchen" Dance Party  
with Team Robespierre, Jambaloo, Hated  
Boys Makin' Noise, and live DJ, 8 pm, \$6.

## GREENWOOD HEIGHTS

### Kitchen Bar

667 Sixth Ave. at 20th Street in Park Slope,  
(718) 499-5623, www.kitchenbar.com  
Thursdays: Live music, 8:30 pm, FREE.

### Living Room Lounge

245 23rd St. at Carroll Street in Park Slope,  
(718) 499-1505  
Saturdays: DJ Kit, 10 pm, FREE; Sundays:

## The Brooklyn

### Lycium

227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park  
Slope, (718) 398-7201, www.gowatn.com  
Mar. 3: Laura Wolfe, Vicky Emerson, 8 pm,  
\$10; Mar. 4: Bob Mosher's Storytime, 5 pm,  
\$5; Songwriters' Exchange with Sam Bialack,  
Jason Myles Goss, Kyle England, 8:30 pm,  
\$7; Mar. 6: Hang the Lights, Static of the  
Gods, 9:30 pm, \$5; Mar. 9: Willum and the  
Works, The Dumb, 9 pm, \$10; Mar. 10:  
Ben Morris, Doug Rether and more, 9:30 pm,  
\$8.

## Biscuit BBQ

231 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park  
Slope, (718) 399-2151, www.biscuitbbq.com  
Sundays: A Sunday Kind of Jazz with John  
Michael and Bill McHenry, 8 pm, \$5 and 1-  
drink minimum; Mondays: Debra and Mary's  
Night on the Town, 9 pm, \$10 and 1-drink  
minimum; Tuesdays: Songwriters' Showcase  
featuring Shout! Rocking, 8:30 pm, \$10.

## Brooklyn

### Conservatory of Music

58 Seventh Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park  
Slope, (718) 422-3300, www.bqm.org  
Mar. 3: The Buster Williams Quartet, 8 pm, \$25  
adults, \$15 students and seniors.

## Cafe Steinhof

427 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope,  
(718) 369-7776, www.cafesteinhof.com  
Mar. 7: The Useless Bastards, 10:30 pm,  
FREE.

## Cattyshack

249 Fourth Ave. at Carroll Street in Park Slope,  
(718) 230-5740, www.cattyshacknyc.com  
Mondays: Open Psyche (open mic), 8 pm,  
FREE; Clump Change, 10 pm, FREE; Tues-  
days: Trivia Night, 7 pm, FREE; Wednesdays:  
Karaoke with Sherry Vine, 9 pm, FREE (52  
after 10 pm); Onk Boyz Party (adults wel-

come with any boys), 10 pm, \$5; Thursdays:  
S-discs, 8 pm, FREE; \$5 after 9 pm; Hey  
DJ!, 10 pm, \$5; Fridays: 8 PM, with DJ Lug  
Nuts, 7 pm, FREE.

## Drama Cafe & Wine

341 Fifth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park  
Slope, (718) 768-2136,  
www.myspace.com/dramacafe  
Saturdays: Artist Showcases, 9 pm, FREE;  
Fridays: Open Mic Night, 8:30 pm, FREE.

## Good Coffeehouse

Music Parlor  
(at the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture)  
Fridays: Live music, 9:30 pm, FREE; Mar. 9: Beat  
of Pop & Rock with Nythawake, 9:30 pm, FREE.

## The Jewish Music

Cafe  
401 Ninth St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope,  
(718) 369-6305, www.jewishmusiccafe.com  
Mar. 10: Yehuda Glatz, 8:30 pm, \$20 in  
advance, \$22 day of the show.

## Magnolia

466 South Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope,  
(718) 369-4814, www.magnoliabrooklyn.com  
Fridays: Live music, 9:30 pm, FREE; Mar. 9: Beat  
of Pop & Rock with Nythawake, 9:30 pm, FREE.

## Melt

440 Bergen St. at Fifth Avenue in Park  
Slope, (718) 233-9025  
Saturdays and Fridays: Meet and Mingle, 11  
pm, FREE.

## Puppet's Jazz Bar

284 Fifth Ave. at First Street in Park Slope,  
(718) 499-2627, www.puppetsjazz.com  
Mar. 3: Randy Johnson Trio, 9:15 pm, 10:40  
pm, Midnight, \$10; Mar. 5: James Al Session,  
9:15 pm, 10:40 pm, Midnight, FREE; Mar. 6:  
Dave Phelps Trio, 9:15 pm, 10:40 pm, Mid-  
night, \$5; Mar. 7: Steve Hudson and the Cuts  
Bridge Ensemble, 9:15 pm, 10:40 pm, Mid-  
night, \$5; Mar. 8: Dave Marks Group, 9:15  
pm, 10:40 pm, Midnight, \$5; Mar. 9: Arturo  
O'Farrill Trio, 9:15 pm, 10:40 pm, Midnight,  
\$10; Mar. 10: Arturo O'Farrill, 9:15 pm, 10:40  
pm, Midnight, \$10.

## Southpaw

125 Fifth Ave. at St. John's Place in Park  
Slope, (718) 230-8236, www.southpaw.com  
Mar. 3: The RUB with Cosmo Baker, DJ Ayres  
& DJ Eleven with special guest Lord Sear and  
Eddie Stata, 10 pm, FREE; Mar. 4: Cabaret of  
Prospect Heights presents The Third Annual  
Mim-Bash featuring Plain Her Quartet, Y-  
Low, Asafa and more, 5:30 pm, \$15; Mar. 6:  
The Vicious Room, 8 pm, FREE; Mar. 7: The  
Original Punk Heavy Metal Karaoke Band, 9  
pm, \$10; Mar. 8: Love of Diagrams, Harlem  
Shakes, Tall Hands, 9 pm, \$10; Mar. 9:  
JazzNYC presents Shout it Out, 12:00 Days, Re-  
tro, Emily China Day, 8:30 pm, \$10; Mar. 10:  
The Raveonettes, Play Party, 9 pm, \$15.

## Tea Lounge

837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park  
Slope, (718) 398-2762, www.tealounge.com  
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## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 2

### Mon, March 5

**SLEEP TIGHT:** Families First offers a talk to help parents get their babies to sleep through the night. \$20, 4 pm to 5 pm, 250 Baltic St. Reservations necessary. (718) 237-1862.

**LECTURE:** Salt Marsh Nature Center offers a talk on wild plants of Brooklyn. All ages welcome. 7 pm, 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.

**UNCOVERING CHASSIDISM:** A 10-week series on Chassidim continues at Congregation B'nai Avraham of Brooklyn Heights. Led by Rabbi Aaron L. Baskin. 8 pm, 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840 ext. 18. Open to all. Free.

**TASTING MENU:** Jolie Restaurant features a \$25 four-course menu. Call for info. 320 Atlantic Ave. (718) 488-0777.

### Tues, March 6

**JAZZ:** Long Island University presents a performance by jazz pianist Vijay Iyer and alto saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa. 8 pm, Kumbha Theater, Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue. (718) 488-1668. Free.

**WINE TASTING:** Jon Keith Beavers,

author of the blog East Village Wine Geek, and Wine Director at In Vino, for a social evening filled with education. Discover an affordable red and white wines. Learn about food pairings and regional information for these varieties with wines in France, New Zealand, Portugal and California. Sample marinated olives and select cold cuts. \$45, 6:30 pm, 964 Park Pl. (718) 859-0229.

**PARENTS TO BE:** The author of "City Baby Brooklyn," speaks at Families First. \$25, \$40 per couple. 7 pm to 9:30 pm, 250 Baltic St. (718) 237-1862.

**POWERUP! COMPETITION:** Brooklyn Public Library's (BPL) Business Library hosts its fourth annual PowerUP! business plan competition for Brooklyn entrepreneurs with cash prizes totaling \$25,000. The first place winner will receive \$15,000, with two runners-up each receiving \$5,000. PowerUP! provides introduction to free resources, including a staff of expert Business Librarians, available at BPL's Business Library Orientation meeting at 8:30 am. Orientation meeting at 8:30 am, 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 623-7000. Free.

**SINGLE PARENTS:** Sheephed Parents Without Partners hosts a Parenting 101. 8 pm, Perry's Restaurant, Nottstrand Avenue and 4th St. Reservations necessary. (718) 790-6040.

**HOMEWORK WORKSHOP:** Pratt Area Community Council offers a workshop for first time homebuyers. Call for time and location. (718) 783-3549, ext. 10.

### Weds, March 7

**ARCHITECTURE TALK:** Historic Barry Lewis offers a talk "Brooklyn: America's Finest Victorian City." 4 pm. Reception follows. New York City College of Technology's City Tech Artium Amphitheater, 300 Jay St. (718) 260-5979. Free.

**CAREGIVER EVENING:** CNR celebrates caregivers with an evening program. Speakers from Brooklyn Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Center, Beth Abramson Adult Day Health Care Program. More. Topics include relaxation techniques and preparing for long term care. 5:30 pm, 596 Prospect Pl. (718) 362-1444. Free.

**EMERGING JEWISH WRITERS:** As part of the Jewish Heritage series, Brooklyn Academy of Music presents readings and a panel of celebrated Jewish authors featuring Shalom Auslander, Jennifer Gilmore, Aaron Hamburger and Rachel Kadish. Moderator: Alana Newhouse. 5:10, 7 pm, BAM Cafe, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**HEALING ARTS:** Salt Marsh Nature Center presents energy healer Richard Eschenberg. Learn about energy healing, Reiki, acupuncture and other healing energies. 7 pm, 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.

**LECTURE:** "Speaking Across Differences," hosted by The Dialogue Project. 6:30 pm, The School for International Studies, 284 Baltic St. (718) 748-2175. Free.

**MEETING:** of Society of Old Brooklynites. 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Supreme Court Building, Court and Montague streets. \$10. 942-3344. Free.

**TASTING MENU:** Jolie Restaurant offers oysters at \$1 a piece. Call for info. 320 Atlantic Ave. (718) 488-0777.



Knock out: International Street Carnivals put on "Strike!" a musical boxing extravaganza at Gleason's Gym on Mar. 3.

### Thurs, March 8

**WORKSHOP:** CAMBA Small Business Services offers a talk "Intro to Home-Based Drycleaning." 10 am to 1 pm, 884 Flatbush Ave. (718) 282-2500. Free.

**PURIM PERFORMANCE:** Brooklyn College presents the National Yiddish Theater's Folklabin in "Purim in Kibitz." 7 pm. Whitman Theater, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nottstrand avenues. (718) 951-4500. Free.

**BAMKINEMATEX:** presents the series "Pimps Prostitutes and Pige." Shohai Imamura's Japan. Today. "Pigs and Battleships" (1961). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 2 pm, 4 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7711.

### Fri, March 9

**CREATIVITY OF NATURE:** Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts "Creative Interpretation of Natural Objects." Learn to meditate on a natural object and then express your interpretation through art. 1 pm, 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.

**BAMKINEMATEX:** presents the series "Pimps Prostitutes and Pige." Shohai Imamura's Japan. Today. "Pigs and Battleships" (1961). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 2 pm, 4 pm, 6:50 pm and 9:15 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7711.

**BARGEMUSIC:** Classical music con-

cert of works by Schubert, Schumann and Brahms. \$35, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2063.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents The Brooklyn Philharmonic and Anthony and the Johnsons. \$25 to \$105, 8 pm, Hoyt Street Opera House, 20 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**GOOD COFFEEHOUSE:** Jan Smith and Jeff Grogan perform acoustic roots music. \$10, \$6 kids. 8 pm, Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2972.

**WOMEN'S FEST:** at Brooklyn Arts Exchange. 8 pm. See Sat., March 10.

### Sat, March 10

#### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**MORNING BIRDING:** Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts a walk around its Nature Trail. Learn about the birds of the salt marsh and see some of the winter migrants. 8 am, 3302 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.

**ICE SKATING:** Last weekend for skating at Wallman Rink. \$5, \$3 seniors and children. \$5.50 skate rental. 10 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 6 pm, 7 pm to 10 pm, Prospect Park, access through the Parkside Ocean Avenue entrance or the Lincoln Road/Ocean Avenue entrance. (718) 287-5252.

**TALES FROM THE CRYPT:** The Urban Park Rangers host a tour of the thousands of resolutions war prisons entombed in Fort Greene Park. 1 pm. Meet at Fort Greene Visitor Center, near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park entrance. Call 311 for info. Free.

**OWLS HEAD PARK:** Join the Urban Park Rangers on a walking tour and learn park history. 1 pm. Meet at Park House, Colonial Road and 68th Street. Call 311 for info. Free.

**WALKING TOUR:** Brooklyn Historical Society hosts a tour around Brooklyn Heights. From Morrisania to 10th St. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

#### PERFORMANCE

**VALENTINE FOR FAMILIES:** Variety show at Neighborhood PlaySpace. \$5, 3 pm. Christ Church, Clinton and Kane streets.

Sorry, no contact phone number. **OPERA:** Regina Opera performs Puccini's "La Bohème." \$20, \$15 seniors, \$5 teens. 7 pm, Regina Hall, 45th Street and 12th Avenue. (718) 232-3555.

**BARGEMUSIC:** Classical music concert of works by Schubert, Schumann and Brahms. \$35, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2063.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents The Brooklyn Philharmonic in "Bridge to the Beyond," a concert of mysticism and spiritual themes. \$20 to \$60, 8 pm, Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. Also, 651 Arts presents "Fa-gals," with Jan-B Company, choreographed by Senegalese Germaine Acogny. \$20 to \$55, 8 pm, Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Violence," a musical set during the civil rights movement. \$18, \$14 children and seniors. 8 pm, 199 14th St. (212) 353-3101.

**WOMEN'S FEST:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents its annual women's new dance and performance festival. \$15, \$10 members, \$8 lower income. 8 pm, 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0018.

**SHAKESPEARE:** Kings County Shakespeare Co. presents "Ruff Love or What You Will," a gender-friendly adaptation of "The Taming of the Shrew." \$18, \$10 students and seniors. 8 pm, South Oxford Square, 138 S. Oxford St. (718) 398-0546.

**BCCB:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Grammy award-winning band Ladymish Black Mambazo. \$20 to \$25, 8 pm, Whitman Theater at Brooklyn College, one block from Flatbush and Nottstrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

**BAM CARE:** As part of the Jewish Heritage Series, Asaf performs North African and Sephardic music. 10 pm. No minimum, no cover. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 626-4100.

#### CHILDREN

**FILM FEST:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents its ninth annual BAM Kids Film Festival. More than 41 short and feature-length children's films from 20 countries. Ages 2 to 13 welcome. \$7 per screening for kids 13 and under and seniors. \$10 for adults. For complete program info, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org). (718) 777-7711.

#### OTHER

**PANEL DISCUSSION:** Danny Simons Corridor Gallery presents the curators and exhibiting artist Mercedes Bailey in a discussion about the works on display. 4 pm to 5 pm, 334 Grand Ave. (718) 230-5002. Free.

**CURATOR'S TALK:** Kenzie International Drawing Space presents an examination of feminist art today through the work of international, emerging women artists.

Exhibit is entitled: "Re-Generation: Emerging Women Artists: Works on Paper." 4 pm, 56 Water St. (718) 634-8761. Free.

**BAMKINEMATEX:** presents the series "Pimps Prostitutes and Pige." Shohai Imamura's Japan. Today. "Pigs and Battleships" (1961). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 2 pm, 4 pm and 9:30 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7711.

### Sun, March 11

Set Your Clocks One Hour Ahead

#### OUTDOORS AND TOURS

**WILD TOUR:** Naturalist and author Wildman Steve Brill leads a hunt for wild canids in Marine Park. \$12, \$6 kids, 11:45 am, Avenue U and Burnet Street. Call for reservations. (718) 835-2153.

#### PERFORMANCE

**FOUR FEET:** Brooklyn Arts Council presents its fourth annual dance showcase. 2 pm to 5 pm, Walt Whitman Theater at Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nottstrand avenues. (718) 625-0000. Free.

**SHAKESPEARE:** "Ruff Love or What You Will." 2 pm and 7 pm. See Sat., March 10.

**OPERA:** "La Bohème." 3 pm. See Sat., March 10.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Violence." 3 pm. See Sat., March 10.

**BARGEMUSIC:** Classical music concert. 4 pm. See Sat., March 10.

#### CHILDREN

**FILM FEST:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents its Kids Film Festival. See Sat., March 10.

#### OTHER

**FLEA MARKET:** at Sunset Park Community Church. 10 am to 3 pm, 5324 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-4544.

**INSIDE STORY:** Union Temple hosts a talk about the Absolut advertising campaign, presented by Richard Lewis, the campaign's creator and author of "Absolute Book and Absolute Sequel." 10 am, 17 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-7600. Free.

**PESACH UNIVERSITY:** Park Slope Jewish Center offers a refresher class in Passover 101. \$15, \$10 members, \$5 seniors and students. 1 pm to 4:30 pm, Corner of Eighth Avenue and 14th Street. (718) 748-1453.

**CAFE STENOGRAPH:** presents the series "Rabbit Hole." (1960). 10:30 pm, 422 Seventh Ave. (718) 369-7774. Free.

**MEET THE ARTIST:** Clinton Hill Art Gallery presents abstract expressionist painter Mary Chang. 2 pm to 4 pm, 154a Vanderbilt Ave. Reservations necessary. (718) 852-0227. Free.

**BAMKINEMATEX:** presents the series "Pimps Prostitutes and Pige." Shohai Imamura's Japan. Today. "The Insect Woman" (1963). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 2 pm, 4 pm and 9:30 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7711.

### LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Nine Days in Brooklyn**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by e-mail: [calendar@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:calendar@brooklynpaper.com) by mail: GQ Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 634-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

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- Contact the Parent Coordinator at your child's school

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## March 9<sup>th</sup>

CITY OF NEW YORK, MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG  
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# Federal judge: Suit is hot air

## Yards opponents suffer huge setback

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

A U.S. judge says federal courts should toss out a lawsuit by property owners and tenants facing eviction for Bruce Ratner's 16-skycraper-and-arena mini-city — a blow to opponents that legal experts said could mark the beginning of the end of the legal challenge to the \$4-billion project.

Brooklyn federal court magistrate Robert Levy wrote last Friday that the case should be sent to state court because "eminent domain is traditionally a matter of local concern."

That's a huge setback to the plaintiffs, who filed their case in federal, rather than state, court because New York's legal system is typically unsympathetic to challenges to the government's right to condemn property via eminent domain.

Levy could still be overruled by the federal district judge overseeing the case, but recommendations by magistrates are rarely rejected, experts said.

"[Staying in the federal court] was the plaintiffs' biggest hurdle and obviously they are not getting

over it," said Michael Rikon, an attorney who specializes in condemnation law.

Rikon's firm represented tenants and owners who lost property to Ratner's first Brooklyn project, Metrotech, as well as to the developer's New York Times Building in Times Square.

The lawyer said that state condemnation law would have to change before constitutional challenges, like that of the Atlantic Yards opponents, will have a fair shake.

The suit, filed last year by 12 residents and the owner of Freddy's Bar, charges that Ratner (left) and his partners in government broke the law when they seized private property to make room for the developer's Prospect Heights Xanadu.

In large part, the case rests on a sequence of alleged crimes that led to the MTA's decision to sell its Long Island Rail Road yards to Ratner for \$100 million less than its appraised value.

That decision was made after Deputy Mayor Daniel Dorooforoff sent a memo declassifying the city would back only

the Ratner plan, the lawsuit said.

The Dorooforoff memo is seen by many Atlantic Yards opponents as the "smoking gun" that shows that the state illegally favored the developer.

Other claims outline alleged shortcomings in last year's state-mandated sequence of public hearings and reviews of the project.

Mayor Bloomberg, Dorooforoff, Ratner, the developer's executives; state development officials who shepherded the project through the approval process; and even Ratner's college buddy, former Gov. Pataki, are all named in the suit.

Rikon and other legal experts said state judges ruling on eminent domain cases typically don't favor small businesses or groups of residents like the one represented in the suit, which is led by Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn spokesman Daniel Goldstein, the last holdout in a Pacific Street condo building that must be torn down to make room for Ratner's proposed arena.

"The laws make it tough no matter what track you are on, as long as you are in New York," said Steven Anderson, director of the anti-eminent domain Institute for Justice Castle Coalition.

"In state courts," he added, "it's tougher."

Unlike federal courts, New

York's courts don't permit plaintiffs to seek the legal search warrant, called "discovery," that allows them to dig through e-mails and other correspondence between defendants in the case.

The importance of this license to dig has been clear since Goldstein's lawyer Matthew Brinkerhoff asked, in early December, that the courts expedite access to the potentially powerful candid correspondence, one lawyer for the Empire State Development Corporation slammed the case as a "fishing expedition." Other legal experts noted that the access was critical to the case's success, as it was the clearest opportunity to score other "smoking gun" documents that would prove Ratner and his alleged cronies had broken the law.

When he asked the court to expedite his access to the potentially powerful candid correspondence, one lawyer for the Empire State Development Corporation slammed the case as a "fishing expedition." Other legal experts noted that the access was critical to the case's success, as it was the clearest opportunity to score other "smoking gun" documents that would prove Ratner and his alleged cronies had broken the law.

"If we end in state court, our appeal will be limited to [evidence of wrongdoing found in] the public record," said Jennifer Levy, a South Brooklyn Legal Services attorney who is representing some of the residents of the project footprint named in the suit.

"But we are talking about the intent," said Levy said, who is in relation to the magistrate. "And



Lead plaintiff Daniel Goldstein, the lone resident of an apartment building that is slated to be torn down to make room for a new Nets arena, is seen here in a painting that was pulled from a recent anti-Atlantic Yards exhibition at the Brooklyn Public Library.

intent is a hard thing to uncover without evidence of [internal] communications."

In his opinion, Magistrate Levy agreed that the loss of digging rights would be a blow.

"Plaintiffs have good reasons for preferring federal court over state court, not the least of which is the lack of access to discovery in state court proceedings..." he wrote.

He did make it clear that the case should be heard in a court — but just not his.

"The complaint raises serious and difficult questions regarding the exercise of eminent domain under emerging Supreme Court jurisprudence," Levy said.

Both sides have until next Wednesday to submit additional papers to Judge Nicholas Garaufis, who will make the final decision.

If Garaufis agrees with the magistrate's recommendation, Brinkerhoff and Levy can appeal in a lower federal court or refile in the New York State Supreme Court.

Brinkerhoff said he remained confident that his constitutional challenge will prevail, even if does move to state court.

"We have a simple claim: You are entitled to an impartial arbiter [when your property is condemned]," he said. "Our allegation is that the outcome was predetermined a long time ago."

## ONE-WAY

Continued from page 1

It has also turned into a mini-highway, thanks to well-timed lights, many residents complain.

Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) was critical of the DOT proposal.

"It sounds to me like it will put more cars on the side streets," he said.

Converting busy two-way streets into one-way boulevards has a long track record in the city.

When Fifth Avenue in Manhattan was made one-way in 1966, travel time decreased by 37 percent, despite a 19-percent increase in volume, according to a 1992 study by the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

At the same time, accident rates on neighboring Madison Avenue declined by 44 percent and by 32 percent on Fifth Avenue.

Then again, converting Seventh Avenue would buck a nationwide trend. Since the early 1990s, hundreds of cities nationwide have converted existing one-way streets into two-way streets to improve commerce through their downtowns, according to USA Today.

The goal of the cities was "taming the automobile," the newspaper said.

"The city [is] more important than the road that runs through it," said former Milwaukee mayor John Norquist, who now heads the Congress for the New Urbanism.

The proposal to remove one lane in each direction on Fourth Avenue is expected to draw less fire than the Seventh and Sixth avenue conversions, Hammen said.

"The left-turn lanes on Fourth Avenue already back up because they're badly designed, so effectively, that lane of traffic is lost anyway," he said. "This could make it safer so that cars aren't jumping in and out of the turn lanes."

Hammen pointed out that the agency, which did not return calls, could simply make the change without going through a public review process.

"I give them credit," Hammen said. "If they didn't want to hear from our community, they would've just sent us a letter saying it's effective on such and such a date."

The Community Board 6 agenda addition was first reported by streetblog, a transportation Web site.

Community Board 6 transportation committee, March 15, 6:30 p.m. Location to be determined. Call (718) 643-3027 for information.

## CHOKES...

Continued from page 1

Steeley refused to touch the third rail of New York City transportation and name an optimal price for the meters, which currently charge just 50 cents for an hour of parking.

"The concept is to inch up the price until you get the right vacancy rate," he said. "Doubling the cost of parking might deter a lot of people from driving. It's trial and error."

The other part of the experiment, he said, was to insure that parking did not become so expensive that drivers would be deterred from making a quick stop at their local store.

White said his group had already reached out to Seventh Avenue businesses to devise a solution together rather than have Transportation Alternatives make recommendations that lack the support of the business community it seeks to help.

A first step, he said, would be to install electronic Mini-Meters, which could be programmed to create "peak" and "off-peak" prices that would create a disincentive to drive during the busiest time of the day.

The TA report, "No Vacancy: Park Slope's Parking Problem and How to Fix It," also renewed calls for the city to sell residential parking permits so that local drivers would have first crack at a spot. Such permits don't guarantee spots, but are akin to a "hunting license" that outsiders don't have.

"Permits would discourage

people from driving into Park Slope," White said. "The same phenomenon happens in downtown Brooklyn and Manhattan. Eighty percent of these drivers have a transit option."

The Department of Transportation has a well-stated antipathy towards residential parking permits.

"We received the report and we'll review its findings," said DOT spokeswoman Kay Sarlin. "But we believe that a residential parking program would be problematic because many neighborhoods are very dense and there are many more cars than there is available curb space."

The Downtown business establishment has taken a similar view of a proposed permit system for the congested areas around the courthouses and in neighboring Fort Greene, where parking places are as hard to find as a forgiving meter maid.

A study commissioned last year by the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership showed that at any given time, Fort Greene has 1,759 cars trolling for 1,089 spots, while Boerum Hill has 1,996 cars looking for 1,769 spots, the parking permit study showed.

Like the latest Transportation Alternatives' study, that report also showed that driving around and looking for parking causes "significant" traffic congestion itself.

The findings were used as a way of rejecting, not promoting, residential permits.

"There are too many cars and not enough spots, with or without permits," Downtown Brooklyn Partnership Executive Director Michael Burke said at the time.

But Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) remains a steadfast believer in the permit system, which is used in Chicago, Boston and in Washington, DC, where Yassky once lived.

He cited permits as one part of a multi-pronged solution to traffic that includes more express buses and better mass transit — steps he said must be taken before the Nets basketball arena is completed in time for the fall, 2009 tapout.

"It is common sense," said Yassky. "We have to discourage driving to the arena. Even under the best circumstances, thousands of cars will clog these streets on game nights."

The Transportation Alternatives report was hardly a surprise to Park Slope drivers, who are accustomed to driving around for 10 or 20 minutes to find a spot.

"I sold a four-year-old car a few years ago that had 16,000 miles on it — all of them from driving around looking for parking," said Leslie Frisberg.

The neighborhood has a long and troubled relationship to the automobile. No wonder that the 2005 film, "The Squid and the Whale," which was set in Park Slope of the 1970s, had a subplot about the endless search for a parking space.

"We don't have a parking problem in Park Slope," joked Jack Frisberg, Leslie's husband. "There's no parking, so no problem."

The report was a hot topic in all the local papers — but mostly for affording reporters the rare chance to refer to themselves (albeit in the third person). A New York Post scribe reported that he "drove around 23 minutes to find a spot" and ended up "eight blocks from his target destination."

A Brooklyn Paper reporter had no such problem — he doesn't drive to assignments in the borough. He lives here.

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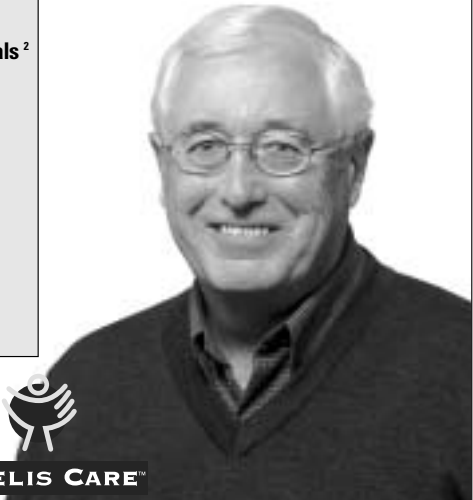
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# COCOA WAR RAGING IN DUMBO

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Two friends and bona-fide Brooklyn gustatory legends have become rivals in that most bitterest of winter businesses: hawking hot chocolate.

Herve Poussot, who developed the Water Street patisserie Almondine with the help of his friend, the famed chocolatier Jacques Torres, has stopped selling Torres's venerated cocoa in favor of his own concoction.

Poussot's under-the-radar move came to light after he posted a diminutive white paper sign on the glass doors leading into his establishment — which sits in plain view of Torres's shop across the street.

The sign may have been meek — “Now for sale: hot chocolate” — but it read like a dagger to anyone who knows the bitter world of high-end sweets.

After all, the shops face each other on Water Street, between Main and Dock streets. And Torres's office is the *ne plus ultra* of lusciousness.

“At first, I used Torres's hot chocolate,” said Poussot, recounting his adventures in cocoa-making. “But I started serving my own in September.”

The move is part of a larger separation between Poussot and Torres, who fostered his friend during Almondine's first two years, helping to create one of DUMBO's favorite lunch spots. The partnership, said Poussot, expired about half a year ago.

“Torres showed me how to build my business,” said Poussot. “Now I'm free.”

Poussot wouldn't comment on whose hot chocolate he preferred, saying the question was akin to asking someone's favorite color.

But Poussot did reveal some of his secret methods (Ompa Lompas were not involved).

“I start with a good chocolate and add only milk and cream — no starch or stuff like that,” said Poussot. “The chocolate is 64 percent cocoa, from France.”

But neighborhood taste-testers (including those in The Brooklyn Paper newsroom), suggested that Poussot might want to revise his recipe, which, like Torres's, rings in at \$2.50 a cup.

“Jacques Torres hot chocolate is sex in a cup,” said Ben Foster, who works at a DUMBO-based online music retailer.

His colleague's appraisal was, arguably, even harsher. “I would argue that the hot chocolate from Peas and Pickles is better than Almondine's,” said Brett Cleaver, referring to DUMBO's grocery store, which serves up a machine-made mix. Torres, who was busy preparing for a trip to France, emailed The Brooklyn Paper to say that he had not yet tasted Poussot's hot chocolate, but welcomed the competition.

“Chocolate is a huge industry and there is room for everyone,” wrote Torres, who favors exclamation marks. “In the DUMBO neighborhood, lots of businesses offer hot chocolate — Starbucks, Seven Stars Deli, Bubly's, Front Street Pizza, to name a few. When Herve first got started, we gave him our hot chocolate product and our cups! Now he's got his own recipe, and that is very exciting!”

And despite the rivalry, the two remain pals. “I still talk to Herve on the phone whenever time permits — whether it is about our profession or our friendship,” said Torres. Isn't that sweet?

## Hot chocolate smackdown!

The news that Almondine Bakery on Water Street had stopped selling hot chocolate made across the street by Jacques Torres has rocked chocoholics from DUMBO to Detroit.

Almondine claims its hot chocolate is every bit as good as Torres's, so we called in The Brooklyn Paper's independent tasting panel. And this panel's credentials are solid: Senior Editor Vince DiMiceli once drove cross-country subsisting solely on Snickers bars and Yoo-hoo; Dana Rubinstein graduated from Cornell University with honors, thanks to her senior thesis, “Why Cain Slew Abel: Chocolate and Bloodshed in the Bible”; Ariella Cohen was once sent out by her sorority sisters to procure a few ounces of Mayan Gold, yet came back with two bars of fancy Mexican chocolate; and Adam Rathe picked up his criminal record after cops caught him Dumpster diving outside the Cocoa Bar in Park Slope.

Of course, my own credentials should not be in question: After hearing that chocolate contains more anti-oxidants than blueberries, I demanded that my daughter's school stop serving fresh fruit in favor of Nestle's semi-sweet Toll House chips. — Gersh Kuntzman

ALMONDINE	Name of store	JACQUES TORRES
\$2.50	Price of eight-ounce cup	\$2.50
Tasting panel comments		
<p>Kuntzman: “It's as watery as DUMBO after a heavy rainstorm, and it has the slight, non-chocolate after-taste of stadium cocoa.”</p> <p>DiMiceli: “Its taste kind of flutters out at the end.”</p> <p>Rubinstein: “It's a pedestrian cocoa. As subtle as a sledgehammer. And it tastes diluted.”</p> <p>Cohen: “It's too sweet, not like a grandmother, but like a Golden Retriever that you just want off you already. It has a warm milk/Ovaltine taste. This is the kind of cocoa you get when you make it yourself.”</p> <p>Rathe: “It's a little weak and not as chocolately as I would like.”</p>		

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## FREE PARKING

### Cops, DOT, DOS leave abandoned car alone

By Michael Giardina  
for The Brooklyn Paper

The maroon Ford Escort that has been sitting on an entrance ramp to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway for at least two weeks, still hasn't been towed away.

The Brooklyn Paper called 311 on Feb. 16 after first spotting the automobile on a traffic island near Doughty Street, and was told that the wreck would be removed by the Department of Sanitation within 72 hours.

When that didn't happen, we called the Parks Department, which administers some city traffic islands. The agency's spokesman said he would “tally the NYPD.”

A spokesman for the Department of Transportation — which has been known to tow away a car now and again — said the wreck was definitely a Sanitation matter because the car had no license plates.

A major breakthrough occurred on Feb. 23, when a Sanitation Department “condemned property” sticker was slapped on the car, four days past the 72-hour promise. But the DOS contracts out the job of actually towing away abandoned or derelict cars to outside vendors, said spokesman Matthew Lipani.

The information is given to a private vendor, who then will then put it on his own schedule to retrieve the abandoned vehicle.

And that, dear readers, still has not happened. It's 12 days — and counting — since we called 311 and five since the Department of Sanitation tagged the car.

But be warned: don't park your licensed and registered car there — that will probably be towed in minutes.



Feb. 16



Feb. 23



Feb. 26



Feb. 28

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See CAMPS on page 17

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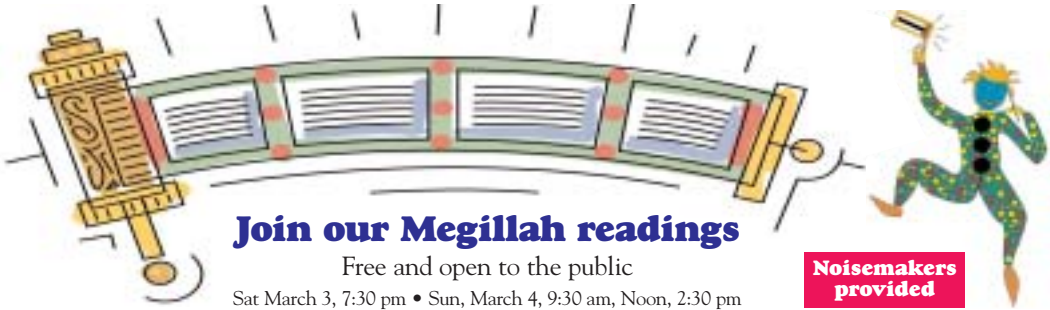
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# WHAT THE F!

## Too many people, not enough trains

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

There were 100 people already waiting for the F train when it pulled into the seventh Avenue stop last Wednesday morning.

But the train was almost entirely packed by the time it showed up, and only a handful of commuters was able to get on.

A woman in a red coat was not one of them. And this was the second train she let go past her because it was too full to accommodate any more people.

She looked at her watch — it was 8:45 am — and huffed in disgust, hoping she could squeeze herself into the next train.

"Now I'm going to be late," she grumbled.

This is the scene most weekday mornings at Park Slope's Seventh Avenue stop — and it's only getting worse.

During the morning and evening rush, an F train is supposed to arrive every four to six minutes, according to MTA timetables. But a Brooklyn Paper reporter found that on most days, the gap is a lot longer.

A few minutes extra may not seem like a big deal, but a two-minute addition to the scheduled four-minute gap means that, on average, there are five fewer trains per hour — about 40 cars — than the schedule says there should be.

Since each car can hold 175 people, those extra five trains during the 8-9 am rush can carry up to 7,000 people.

Or not, if they're not there.

A Brooklyn Paper reporter spent several mornings last week watching the F train — and noting its, how shall we put it?, idiosyncrasies.

Often, as many as seven or eight minutes passed between trains. Such gaps cause a breakdown in service along the F's Brownstone Brooklyn corridor.

Many trains were already crowded when they pulled into the 15th Street station between Windsor Terrace and Park Slope. One stop later, at Seventh Avenue, few commuters could get on, meaning that the next train, itself overcrowded, had to pick up the slack.

The pattern repeated at Fourth Avenue, which, despite being a transfer to the R train, ends up adding a net gain of passengers onto the F train.

At Smith and Ninth Street, Red Hook residents join the party, crowding the train even more.

And the crowds at Bergen Street and Carroll Street — which serve the communities of Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens — are as big as ever. For every passenger who gets off the train at Carroll Street, many more try to get on.

Finally, the big exhale comes at Jay Street, where hundreds of Downtown Brooklyn workers exit and many other commuters transfer to the faster (and less-crowded) A train.

The MTA, for its part, disagrees that the service on the F line is inadequate (and who are

### INVESTIGATION

you going to believe, the MTA or your own lying eyes?).

"We constantly study traffic patterns," said Dierdre Parker, an agency spokeswoman. "The service on the F line is within guidelines."

True, the problem may not only be the trains. Part of the blame rests on the population bomb that's been dropping on Brooklyn over the past few years.

People are moving to Brooklyn in huge numbers, but they're still working in Manhattan. So, naturally, the newcomers are trying to maintain easy subway access to "the city."

The latest Census — from 2000 — shows that the population of the neighborhoods in the F corridor rose nearly 31,000 people, to 387,335, in a decade.

Manhattan-bound subway users are following the F towards cheaper rents in Windsor Terrace, Kensington and beyond.

"As soon as a house goes on the market, it's gone," said Mary Kay Gallagher, a real estate broker in Ditmars Park and Kensington.

All these new homesteaders mean an already-packed F train by the time it gets to Park Slope.

It's no wonder the Straphangers Campaign now rates the F train 11th out of the city's 22 subway lines.

"The F line has an above-average amount of scheduled service," says the Straphangers F profile, "but arrives with below-average regularity."

#### So what's the answer?

Though F riders are calling for more trains, some experts have other ideas:

- Extend the other orange train — the V, which currently terminates at Second Avenue on the Lower East Side — into Brooklyn.

"We've long been a proponent of extending the V train — at least part of the way into Brooklyn — if not all the way down to Coney Island — the F could be switched over to the express track during peak hours, mirroring the express-and-local pattern of the A and C lines."

Carolyn Konheim, a transportation expert who has been lobbying for improvements to the F line since 2003, agrees.

"We have the tracks to run the F as an express train," she said. "But the MTA won't do it."

- Extend the G train to Church Avenue.

Running the F as an express would require eliminating the G train's turn-around at the Smith and Ninth station, but Konheim believes that extending the G train further down into Brooklyn would also help the problem.

"The G should really be boosted," she said. "Nobody pays any attention to it."

If the Queens-bound G —

which currently begins its run at Smith and Ninth Street — commenced its journey from deeper in Brooklyn, commuters could

take the G all the way to Queens — getting such commuters, quite literally, out of the F-ing way.

Parker, the MTA spokeswoman, said the transit agency had no plans to turn the F into an express train or extend the V line or the G line beyond a temporary

extension into Kensington necessary to complete work on the Smith and Ninth Street station.

The MTA, however, has said that the change could become permanent if the demand is high enough.

It is.

## TRAIN IN VAIN

### 5 tips for surviving the F

With service on the F train getting worse, The Brooklyn Paper offered these handy tips for surviving the morning commute.

1. Don't wear heavy perfume or cologne, but do bathe on a regular basis.
2. By all means, pull out your iPod — but remember that a slow song can make the ride seem that much longer (and a slow dance probably isn't a good idea considering all the bodies packed so closely together).
3. On the F line, the middle cars tend to have fewer passengers.
4. Don't use your cellphone in the above-ground portion of the line. Yelling, "I'll be there in five minutes! No, I said five. Five! Yes, five" is usually futile on this much-delayed train.
5. Put your bag on the floor instead of knocking into everyone.

— Rizk

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## POLONIA...

Continued from page 3

judges, who rate them on their Polish heritage, future goals, how well they speak their native language, and, of course, beauty.

The winner can earn \$300, plus the coveted seat on the float at the Oct. 7 Pulaski Parade. And she even gets the Miss Polonia tiara — for at least a little while.

"A few years ago when we had more support [of the business community], the winner got to keep the crown," Prusinowski said. "But they are too expensive now, so they get to wear them for a little bit — but we need them back."

The Miss Polonia pageant is April 22 at Sirico's (8015 13th Ave.). Interested contestants should call Helen at (718) 853-9351.

## R TRAIN...

Continued from page 3

muter advocacy group, agreed with Gentile's overall assessment that the R train is underperforming.

They rank the R train in the lower third of all subway trains because it "arrives with regularity less often than the average line." In addition, the R "breaks down more often than the average line," the group said.

A passenger who makes the commute from Bay Ridge to Manhattan wasn't as diplomatic in her evaluation.

"It's slow as s---," said Lisa Tizzichillo. "The express is a total joke and the stop [at 9th Street] is a major inconvenience."

"The one word that comes to mind when I think of the R is, slow — slow coming, slow going, slow, slow, slow," Tizzichillo added.

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